Edition 2, October 1, 2021  
Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



We are now into our second month of school! It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Back-to-School Night. We will continue to use this platform as a way to communicate important information to our parents and guardians. We welcome your feedback and feel free to email with questions. Your team leaders can be reached via email at:

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# In this edition:

* Content area and department overviews for the month of October
* Technology Tips & General Info.

# What’s happening in...

* **English:** Students have been studying the essential elements of narrative writing in the unit "Stories that Connect Us." Now, they are crafting their own stories to showcase what they have learned.
* **Algebra and Intensified Algebra:** Students will be completing Unit 2, Solving Equations and begin Unit 3, Functions.
* **Pre-Algebra 8:** Students will be studying proportional reasoning this month. There will be a strong emphasis on consumer math (tax, tip, mark up & discount)
* **Intensified Geometry:**  Students will begin their study of deductive reasoning this month. This will be a strong focus throughout the year. Important Dates:

10/12 - Rube Goldberg Project due

10/19 - Intro to Constructions due

* **Science**: Students will conduct safe investigations to explore properties of matter. They will apply their inquiry skills to the first phase of the independent project, supported in-class on anchor days.
* **World Geo:** Students will spend the first half of October exploring physical geography and how humans adapt to and change their natural environment. In the latter half of the month, students will build on their understanding of cultural concepts and analyze influences on culture.
* **Reading:** Students will continue to solidify foundational reading skills in word study, grammar, and comprehension and participate in a weekly reading challenge.
* **French:** Students will be able to give a tour of their home and ask where someone lives in French using prepositions. Students will be able to name the furniture in each room. They will also compare and contrast American and French housing.
* **Tech Ed:** Students will be able to follow the process and procedures of the class; using the desktop PCs to access APS apps such as Canvas and Google Drive. They have practiced these skills with the completion of a ‘Who Am I?’ project, which required a submission to the Canvas class assignment from Google Drive. Students also completed a scavenger hunt to discover tools and equipment used in the lab spaces.
* **Counseling:** 8th Grade Counselor: Chrissy Reardon. Parents can reach me at [christine.reardon@apsva.us](mailto:christine.reardon@apsva.us) 703-228-5512. Students can send me a Canvas message or just stop by my office!

# Tips

**Parent Canvas Observer Account Access:**

1. Before you begin, you need a Student Pairing Code
   1. Students get this code in their Canvas account - *“Settings”* - *“Pair with Observer”*
   2. Teachers can also generate a student pairing code, but student generation is preferred
2. Go to: [apsva.instructure.com/login/canvas](https://apsva.instructure.com/login/canvas)
3. Click the *“Parent of a Canvas User? Click Here For An Account”* link
4. You will fill out a form with:
   1. Your name
   2. Your personal email address

*Be careful to avoid typos*

* 1. Enter & re-enter your chosen password *Record this somewhere!*
  2. Your child’s student pairing code

1. From that point forward, you will have your own Canvas observer account and will be able to access many Canvas features in your child’s classes

**Digital Feedback / Comments**

*(shared with students in STAR)*

* [How to View Feedback and Grades](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z2vtSWvTmPgTE7l_aK3qoSzgRvfrLbwc/view?usp=sharing)
* [Checking Gradebooks Process Flowchart](https://drive.google.com/file/d/11f6_DtVxEChzN1KLCYl_E4lFiGMG6rWo/view?usp=sharing)

**Tech Support:**

* Please ask you student to request tech help through their STAR teacher
* [Middle School Technology Tutorials](https://www.apsva.us/ms-student-technology-tutorials/)

**General Resources:**

* [APS Parent Guide to Distance Learning](https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Secondary-Parent-Guide.pdf)
* [2020-21 Swanson Supply List](https://swanson.apsva.us/about-us/2019-2020-supply-lists/)
* [Swanson Counseling Office Resources](https://swanson.apsva.us/counseling-services/online-resources/)