

Edition 4, December 1, 2021

Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. We are grateful for our parent community here at Swanson! We really appreciate all of your support at home and everything you do to support the lives of your children here with us.

Your team leaders can be reached via email at:

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In this edition:

- Content area and department overviews for December
- Cell phone usage reminders
- iPad safety and care

What's happening in...

- World Geo:** Students just wrapped up their Culture Project Based Assessment (How Does Human Migration Change People and Places), and started Unit 4 (Economics & Demographics). Students will read and interpret maps, graphs, and charts to analyze data. Students will investigate levels of development using specific economic and demographic markers, as well as the causation for those differences as seen through specific case studies.
- English:** Students will have finished their reading and analysis of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* and will be making connections to today's world. Students will be able to analyze media messages and will create their own media messages to share with the class.
- Pre-Algebra:** Students will solve multi-step equations including equations with variables on both sides of the equal sign. This is a particularly important topic to help prepare students for success in Algebra 1
- Algebra and Intensified Algebra:** Students will be continuing with their unit of Writing and Graphing Linear Equations.
- Intensified Geometry:** Students will apply postulates and theorems learned in Unit 3 on congruent triangles to deduce properties of quadrilaterals. Additionally, they will apply their knowledge of quadrilaterals to construct specific quadrilaterals using a compass and straightedge. This unit has a strong focus on proof. A proof will count ~20%-30% of the Unit 4 assessments. Students are encouraged to meet with Mrs. Pacifico if they need help writing proofs/
- Science:** Students are finalizing their procedures for their science projects in preparation for beginning data collection.

We are in the midst of exploring properties of matter as our beginning exploration of Chemistry. Along with that this month we will be honing our data analysis skills to prepare for analyzing experimental data we collect with the science projects.

- ❑ **French:** Students are studying food culture in the Francophone world. As we kick off December, they are finishing their group projects and presentations on “Fromage français!” In the month of December, we will be studying housing, and also looking at Holiday traditions.
- ❑ **Counseling:** I am continuing to hold “Minute Meetings” with every 8th grader. Students can also set up a time to meet with me by sending me a Canvas message or just stopping by my office! If parents have any concerns, feel free to contact me at christine.reardon@apsva.us or 703-228-5512.
 - ❑ [Swanson Counseling Office Resources](#)

Help needed with cell phone usage

Swanson’s policy on cell phones is that they should be off and away during the school day. Cell phones should only be used in case of emergency. We would love your support in reminding your student of this policy.

iPad damages

Unfortunately, we are seeing an uptick in iPad breakage and loss. Please remind your student to safely store their iPad in their backpack during lunch and prior to changing classes. Also, we do have keyboard cases available. If your child needs one, please have them ask their STAR teacher.

Grade posting

In ParentVue: Parents can expect to see grades for all assignments (e.g. graded classwork or test) that are being used to calculate the final grades (quarter, semester, interim, final etc). *ParentVUE is the place to see official grades for all assignments and grade totals*

In Canvas: For assignments submitted and graded in **Canvas**, parents can see submissions, scores, and specific feedback on their child’s individual assignments.

How to create a Canvas Parent Observer Account: [Parent Login](#) and [Instructions & FAQs](#)

High School: Next Steps

- ❑ A virtual high school information night occurred on November 1st. [Click here for information if you missed the event.](#)
- ❑ All 8th graders participated in a virtual tour of Arlington Tech. programs in STAR the week of November 16th ([virtual tour link](#)).
- ❑ All high schools and major optional programs, including Arlington Tech, are hosting their own specific virtual information sessions with questions and answer opportunities between December 2nd and 9th. [Click here for more details.](#)
 - ❑ No RSVP is required, but all 8th graders and their families are encouraged to attend the session or sessions relevant to their neighborhood school or optional programs they are considering.
- ❑ [Video link](#) for Swanson’s 8th-grade counselors’ presentation on high school options and programs and the application process for them. Students will watch this video during STAR.