

Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



2022 here we come! We hope you all had a restful and rejuvenating winter break and are looking forward to the new year.

Your team leaders can be reached via email at:

kathryn.merlene@apsva.us

chris.long@apsva.us

malia.rivera@apsva.us

In this edition:

- Content area and department overviews for January
- High School Course Request Forms (CRFs)
- General Resources / Tech. Tips

What's happening in...

- World Geo:** After the new year, students will wrap up their introduction to concepts in the course with Political Geography. We will then begin our regional units starting with Latin America. At that point, all of the content and skills that students have covered and practiced in class will be applied to, and expanded upon through, global regions.
- English:** Students will begin the new with a debate unit. Students will read about and research an issue then defend a Pro or Con position in a live debate. We will be mixing in some grammar lessons and independent reading as always! At the end of the month we will begin our persuasive writing unit.
- Pre-Algebra:** Students continue their study of multi - step equations. The focus this month will be on solving equations with variables on both sides of the equal sign. An emphasis will be placed on showing their work as well as checking their answers.
- Algebra and Algebra Intensified:** Students will be finishing their unit on Writing and Graphing Linear Equations and will begin their unit on Systems of Linear Equations. A project will be introduced at the beginning of January that will be due January 18/19. Also, the date for the Mid-Term Exam has been tentatively set for February 3/4.
- Science:** Students will be finishing up their independent projects, culminating in a display of their efforts and in-class showcase. Students who would like to be a part of the science fair should have been in contact with their science teachers and taken the steps provided to join. We will continue to work toward completing our chemistry portion of physical science.
- Intensified Geometry:** Students will apply all they have learned about parallel lines and congruent triangles to properties of quadrilaterals. Specifically, students will

prove various theorems about parallelograms, rectangles, rhombi, squares, kites & trapezoids

- ❑ **Spanish:** Students will be able to describe a shopping trip and be able to have a conversation with a sales person. Students will also focus on learning the preterite tense of regular -ar,-er, and -ir verbs.
- ❑ **French:** Students will begin their thematic unit on “la capitale de la France...Paris.” They will be able to discuss famous Paris monuments, talk about weather and animals, and invite friends to do an activity. Students will also begin speaking in the past tense.
- ❑ **Latin:** Latin students will be continuing to focus on all things verb-related. They will learn how to form the last two of the six tenses: the pluperfect and future perfect, and they will be delving into verbal adjectives, otherwise known as participles. We will be taking a short break from the textbook stories in order to learn some more Roman history.
- ❑ **Counseling:** It’s time to start thinking about high school! If your child is interested in applying for one of the APS High School Option Programs, the **application portal is open until January 21st, 2022.** Option Programs include: the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at Washington-Liberty, Arlington Tech, H-B Woodlawn, and the Advanced Placement (AP) Network at Wakefield. Please note that your child does **not** need to apply for their neighborhood high school. If your child’s neighborhood high school is W-L, they do **not** need to apply for the IB Program. **All information about the Option Programs and application process can be found on the APS High School Options & Transfers webpage.** Students can also access this information in the “High School Information” section of the Counseling Canvas page.
- ❑ **Notes from your Administrative Team**

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful, restful winter break with family and friends. We are in 2022 already! Wow, time goes by so quickly. We are looking forward to a fantastic rest of the year. We wish you all a prosperous New Year!

High School: Next Steps

- ❑ A virtual high school information night occurred on November 1st. If you missed it, check out the information below:
 - ❑ [High School Information Night Recording](#)
 - ❑ HS Information Night Slides ([English](#)) ([Español](#))
 - ❑ [High School Family Guidebook](#)
 - ❑ [Schedule of school-based virtual information sessions for families](#)
- ❑ All 8th graders participated in a virtual tour of Arlington Tech. programs in STAR the week of November 16th. To learn more about Arlington Tech, check out their [Informational Video!](#)
- ❑ [Watch this video](#) for Swanson’s 8th grade counselor’s presentation on high school options and programs and the application process for them. Students watched this video in STAR ideally the week of 11/15.
- ❑ Reach out to Christine.Reardon@apsva.us with any questions.

General Resources:

- ❑ [Swanson Counseling Office Resources](#)

Tech Support:

- ❑ [How to view Feedback & Grades](#) (requires APS account login)