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Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



Your team leaders can be reached via email at:

kathryn.merlene@apsva.us

malia.rivera@apsva.us

chris.long@apsva.us

In this edition:

- Content area overviews for February
- High School course selection:
 - Course Request Forms (CRFs)
 - Naviance
- Important dates

What's happening in...

- World Geo:** In February, World Geo students are starting off quarter 3 by wrapping up our Latin America Unit. We will then travel across the Atlantic to Sub-Saharan Africa, where we will continue applying concepts from the beginning of the year to global regions and exploring the vast amount of economic, cultural, physical, and political diversity that the world has to offer.
- English:** In February, students will be researching, drafting, revising, and finalizing a persuasive essay on a topic of their choice. Final draft will be due March 2nd and 3rd. We will continue our study of grammar, along with our focus on independent reading. Coming up, students will be taking the writing SOL on March 17th and 18th.
- Science:** Congratulations to all students, (and especially- Science Fair participants) for showing perseverance and critical thinking through their science projects! In February, we will finish our exploration of chemistry by understanding and explaining what happens during chemical reactions.
- Pre-Algebra:** Students will be starting the unit on Solving Inequalities where many of the concepts from the previous unit will be reinforced. Students will then transition into the unit on Linear Relationships, which will be a major prerequisite skill for Algebra 1 next year.
- Algebra and Intensified Algebra:** Students will be taking their Midterm Exams on February 3 and 4. The month of February will then be devoted to Unit 5, Systems of Equations, followed by Unit 6, Linear Inequalities and Systems of Inequalities.

- ❑ **Intensified Geometry:** Students will be taking their Midterm Exams on February 1st 3rd. The month of February will then be devoted to Unit 7, Similar Triangles, followed by Unit 8, Right Triangles.
- ❑ **Tech Ed:** Students in Technological Systems are wrapping up the first semester by testing the CO2 dragsters on the computerized drag track. Students used a scale and wind tunnel to record mass and drag to seed the double elimination race bracket. They use Autodesk Inventor to 3D print a replica of the wooden model that was designed and manufactured in the woodshop. Robotics students are putting their knowledge of mechanisms to use by engineering a child's pull toy. Robotics students will learn programming with motors, sensors, and RobotC heading into the 3rd quarter.
- ❑ **French:** Students will be able to talk about the weather and animals, invite friends to do an activity, excuse themselves, and talk about past events. Students will continue their study of famous Paris monuments, use irregular adjectives, and adverbs in present and past tense.
- ❑ **Counseling:** Students will be learning about academic planning and graduation requirements for high school. Students will be receiving their Course Request Forms on February 3rd.

High School Course Selection:

Course Request Forms (CRFs)

Timeline:

- **Feb 3rd** - Counselors from Yorktown and Washington-Liberty will visit Swanson during 3rd period. Students will learn about 9th grade course offerings and opportunities. Students will receive their Course Request Forms

(CRFs) at that time, and have an opportunity to ask questions.

- **Important note:** Students should attend the presentation for their neighborhood (zoned) high school. If your child is offered a spot in an option program (IB, Arl. Tech, HB, etc.), they will complete a new CRF at that time.
- **Feb 3 - 15:** First, students will receive a math course recommendation from their math teacher. Then, if students wish to take "intensified" courses in other subjects, e.g. English, Social Studies, Science, they are to ask their teacher for a recommendation.
- **Feb 3 - 15:** Student should review the CRF with **you** before turning in. Feel free to email teachers with questions.
- **Feb 16:** CRFs due to student's STAR teacher.

Naviance

After February 16th, Ms. Reardon will be working with students on inputting their course plans into an electronic system called Naviance. Students will continue to use Naviance throughout high school, so this will be a good introduction.

If you or your child have any questions about 9th grade course registration, please do not hesitate to reach out to Christine.Reardon@apsva.us.

Important Upcoming Dates

- ❑ **Feb 3** - High school presentations during 3rd period. Students receive Course Request Forms (CRFs)
- ❑ **Feb 9** - Early release Wednesday. Teachers are in professional development
- ❑ **Feb 16** - Course Request Forms due to STAR teacher
- ❑ **Feb 21** - No School, Presidents Day

- ❑ **March 4** - No School, Middle School Conferences .