

Edition 7, March 1, 2022

Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



It's March already, and spring is here! Please read through for updates on what's happening in your child's classroom and to mark your calendar with some important dates.

Believe it or not, promotion planning is underway! Please consider supporting the PTA, as they are a huge help to us in making our end of the year activities meaningful for our 8th graders.

Your suggestions are always welcome.

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What's happening in...

- ❑ **World Geo:** World Geo students started the East, South, and Southeast Asia unit with a mapping activity. Students should practice using maps provided in class as well as Seterra maps. After this unit, we will move on to the Southwest Asia/North Africa/Central Asia (SWANACA) Unit, where students will be creating a "museum exhibit" based on a chosen country from the region. This project will require content skills from physical, cultural, and economic geography.
- ❑ **English:** During the month of March, English students will have just completed their persuasive essay and will move to an in-depth review of grammar. On March 24 and 25th all 8th-graders will take the Virginia Writing SOL. The writing SOL consists of two parts. The first is a multiple choice test, and the second is an essay. Students will be given a prompt and asked to write a response. At the end of the month we will move into our dystopian fiction unit where students will read and analyze a dystopian novel in book club groups.
- ❑ **Pre-Algebra:** Student will be starting their Geometry unit in PreAlgebra, beginning with angle relationships and the Pythagorean Theorem.
- ❑ **Algebra and Intensified Algebra:** Students will be finishing their Inequalities Unit and completing their Radicals Unit.
- ❑ **Science:** Science is wrapping up the last of our studies of Chemistry and moving onto Electricity and Magnetism. After that we will be moving into Waves
- ❑ **Intensified Geometry:** Students will be continuing their study of right triangles, including right triangle trigonometry. The

end of the month we will begin our study of circles.

- ❑ **French II:** Students will complete their Paris Unit with presentations throughout the month of March. They will take us on a week-long tour of Paris, and tell us, in French, about the animals they saw, the famous monuments they visited, and the traditional French pastries they ate. Students will show their mastery of past tense verbs, adverbs and irregular adjectives. They will also begin their study of health and wellness.
- ❑ **Latin II:** Latin students know that March means the National Latin Exam and (for some) the National Mythology Exam.. Students will be taking the Latin exam on Thursday 17th. The first half of the month, we will focus on preparing for the exam: reviewing the grammar covered so far, studying cultural content, the history of Rome from its founding to the early Republic, as well as mottoes and English derivatives. We will then continue with the stories in our textbook, which is now introducing the Pluperfect tense (our 5th of the six tenses in all)..
- ❑ **Tech Ed:** The Technological Systems class arrived for the new second semester. The students defined twelve technological areas in our lives and associated positive and negative impacts to those. These students are now in the woodshop to practice safety with a simple jigsaw puzzle exercise, before they design their own creations in the computer lab with Adobe Illustrator. The designs will be laser cut and engraved, then finished with equipment in the woodshop.
- ❑ **Important Upcoming Dates**
 - ❑ **March 2 - Interim grades posted**
 - ❑ **March 3rd and 4th - Conferences.** Please log onto Teams using your student's iPad.

- ❑ **March 24 and 25 - All 8th-grade students will take the Writing SOL**
 - ❑ March 24 is the multiple choice test, during the morning class periods.
 - ❑ March 25 is the essay test; also in the morning
 - ❑ Please make sure your student has a good breakfast and that they have charged their iPad.

Looking Ahead:

- ❑ **June 13 - 14 - End of 8th Grade Year Activities**
- ❑ **June 15 - Promotion 8:30 - 10:30**
- ❑ Please help support the PTA! They offer a lot of help to us in making the end of year celebrations meaningful for our 8th graders.

General Resources:

- ❑ [Swanson Counseling Office Resources](#)

Tech Support:

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