

Edition 8, April 1, 2022

# Swanson Eighth Grade Monthly News



Please take a look at what's in store for the month of April. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your teachers at any time.

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## In this edition:

- ❑ Content area overviews for April
- ❑ Important dates for the end of the year
- ❑ General Resources / Tech. Tips

## What's happening in...

- ❑ **World Geo:** Prior to spring break, students worked with their partners to begin compiling research and making progress on their SWANACA (Southwest Asia / North Africa / Central Asia) Project - Based - Unit. Students' work will be displayed in the library starting April 21. The final presentation date is April 26, and all Unit 10 late work will be due by 8PM April 26. Following the SWANACA Project, students will continue regional units with Europe, as well as some SOL review. World Geo SOLS are currently scheduled for 5/18, with our final exams set to take place immediately prior.
- ❑ **English:** During the month of April students will be studying dystopian literature and the elements of an author's craft. Each student should be reading a dystopian novel of their choosing and will be discuss their analysis in book club groups . We will have a quiz on April 27th and then students will be preparing for an in-class analytical essay on theme in the 9th and 10th of May.
- ❑ **Pre-Algebra:** Students are in the middle of the unit on Area and Perimeter. This unit will wrap up before Spring Break. After Spring Break we will move into the unit on Volume & Surface Area
- ❑ **Algebra and Intensified Algebra:** Students will be starting their Polynomials and Factoring Unit. This is a large unit so it will be broken up into 2 parts that will end in the beginning of May.
- ❑ **Science:** In April, students will explore how waves transfer energy by modeling sound and light waves. They will investigate how

waves can interact in ways that are useful for many technologies and applications.

- ❑ **Intensified Geometry** Students are in the middle of the unit on Circles. The unit test will be Thursday 4/7. After Spring Break student will begin the unit on Area, Perimeter, Volume and Surface Area
- ❑ **French:** We are studying health and wellness in French. Students will be able to identify parts of the body, express needs, and talk about France's medical insurance system. We will also discuss “manger-bouger,” the movement to help get people in shape. Students will research locations in the francophone world with thermal spas such as les Vosges,, l'Auvergne, les Alpes, and les Pryrénées.
- ❑ **Latin:** With the National Latin exam under their belts, Latin students will be continuing to read the soap-opera-esque stories in our textbook, while learning the last two noun declensions and adding some more sophisticated grammar points, like relative and demonstrative pronouns. Students will also start on their final projects—writing autobiographical life stories of major figures from late Republican Rome.
- ❑ **Spanish 2:** We are halfway through the unit on daily routines. Students are learning how to conjugate reflexive verbs in order to talk about daily routines in the present and preterite tense. Once we finish Unit 7 we will begin the unit on food. Students will be able to talk about, describe and order food.
- ❑ **Tech Ed: Technology of Robotic Design** students will put their new language to use. RobotC is the language that students program the VEX Cortex with to solve a variety of engineering problems; custom building, applying their knowledge of mechanisms, and programming.

Technological Systems students will apply the design process to study systems, designing a CO2 Dragster car. Students design the project, manufacture it in the woodshop, test it in a wind tunnel, 3D print a replica scaled down, and finally race it on the computerized drag track that records times to the thousandths.

## Important Upcoming Dates

- ❑ End of 3rd Quarter - April 8
- ❑ Spring Break - April 11 - 15
- ❑ Grade Preparation Day - April 18
- ❑ Holiday - May 3
- ❑ Holiday - May 30
- ❑ SOL Assessments window. - May 18 - June 6
- ❑ Teachers Finalize 4th Qtr. & End of Year Grades - June 1 - 16
  - ❑ Deadlines for 4th Qtr. missing / late work in many courses between June 1 - June 16
- ❑ Promtion:- June 15 8:30- 10:30

We are planning an 8th grade dance, a trip to King's Dominion, and an end-of-year BBQ!

Be on the lookout for more information in the coming weeks.

## Tech Support:

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