

WARRIOR Connections



MARCH 2016
VOLUME 15
ISSUE 3



From the Principal's Desk

Warrior Nation Families,

I am proud to recognize our 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Ivy Jindal and our Employee of the Year, Mrs. Carol Edwards. Mrs. Jindal is our dedicated ASD teacher who teaches with her heart and soul every day. She is passionate about the development of her students and enriches their daily experience at Sanford Middle School with her caring demeanor. Mrs. Carol Edwards is our Guidance/ESE secretary who exudes exemplary customer service. She greets our faculty, parents and students with a friendly smile and always goes above and beyond to assist wherever needed. We are proud to have both of these wonderful ladies a part of our Warrior Nation community.

As you may know, we are entering the season of state assessments. FSA Writing begins on March 1, 2016. Please advise your student to relax and do their very best. We know these are important assessments but students need to know they have prepared for this all year and be confident they will be successful! Please remind your student to do the following things:

- Arrive to school on time. Once testing begins, students will not be allowed to enter the testing location.
- Get adequate rest.
- Eat a nutritious breakfast. It's hard to think on an empty stomach!
- Read all of the questions and answer choices carefully.
- If you finish early, go back and check your work.

I am extremely proud of the hard work and effort our students have shown thus far. With their effort and the dedication of our teachers, we will continue to achieve academic excellence making Sanford Middle School a premier learning institution.

Sincerely,
Randy Shuler

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Randy Shuler
Principal

Ms. Origin Call
Assistant Principal

Mr. Martin Dunlop
Assistant Principal

Ms. Deirdre Garnes
Assistant Principal

Mr. Richard Burkett
Dean

Mr. Ronald Diltz
Dean

Ms. Brittany Rolle
Dean

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Ms. Tiffany Barnes

Mr. Andrew Lorenz

Mrs. Gaylar Mitchell



Mark Your Calendars

March 17th – End of the Third Quarter
 March 18th – No School for Students/Teacher Workday
 March 21st to 25th – Spring Break
 March 28th – Classes Resume/Start of the Fourth Quarter
 March 30th – Report Cards Go Home
 April 27th – Progress Reports Go Home

Business Partners

“Partners in Excellence” is a broad-based program, which promotes business involvement in the Seminole County Public Schools. It is an exchange of human resources between a business and a school/department or the school district which could include internships, tutoring, classroom presentations, job shadowing, student and/or teacher recognition, field trips, student work displays, apprenticeships, mentoring, or a unique program designed by an organization and the partner school.”
 – SCPS Website

Thank you to all of our Business Partners. They support Sanford Middle, so please support them!

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University of Florida IFAS Extension

Sanford Police Department

Sanford Pest Control

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Central Florida Zoo

Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM) - Casselberry, FL

Full Sail

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Seminole State College

Northrup Grumman

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Please contact Ms. Origin Call, Assistant Principal at Origin_Call@scps.k12.fl.us if you wish to help SFMS as a business partner.

STAY

CONNECTED

Stay Connected with the Latest Warrior News!

Twitter: @sms_warriors
 FB: facebook.com/SanfordMiddleSCPS
 Text @smsnews1 to 81010

Dividends

Thank you Dividends for volunteering at Sanford Middle!

As of February 22, 2016, SMS Dividends have logged 1,249 volunteer hours this school year.

If you wish to register to be a Dividend, go to the Seminole County Public Schools website: www.scps.k12.fl.us and click on the link for “Dividends School Volunteer.”

For more information, please contact Ms. Origin Call, Assistant Principal at Origin_Call@scps.k12.fl.us.



PTSA[®]

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We invite every parent, teacher and neighbor to join with PTA, as we work to make Sanford Middle the best it can be for our students, teachers & community.

You can join 4 million parents, teachers, grandparents, caregivers, foster parents and other caring adults who share a commitment to improving the education, health, and safety of all children by becoming a member of the PTSA. There are Sanford Middle School PTSA membership applications available at the school front desk.

Our PTSA has supported all SMS school events like Literacy Night, STEM Night, A Honor Roll, 3.5+ GPA recognition, Teacher Appreciation week, Teacher Grants & much more. PTSA produces a weekly email blast with info on what we are doing, please send an email to SMSPTSAWeeklyInfo@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

The SMS PTSA will be having a drawing for 4 Disney park hopper tickets (\$620 value). Drawing sales start on Wednesday, 2/17 through 5/20. The drawing winner will be announced at the SMS Talent show on 5/20. Drawing tickets can be purchased in the SMS school store. Tickets cost: 1 ticket for \$1 / 7 tickets for \$5 / 15 tickets for \$10/ 35 tickets for \$20

Discipline Department

Mr. Ronald Diltz	7th Grade and ESE 6th, 7th & 8th Grade	407-320-6160
Mrs. Brittany Rolle	6th Grade and 8th Grade	407-320-6141
Mrs. Karen Kelley	Discipline Secretary	40-320-6158

Guidance Department

Mrs. Tiffany Barnes	6th N-Z & 7th Grade	407-320-6143
Mr. Andrew Lorenz	ESE & Gifted All Grades	407-320-6140
Mrs. Gaylar Mitchell	6th A-M & 8th Grade	407-320-6144
Mrs. Jaye Mitchell	Guidance Secretary	407-320-6154



8th GRADE DANCE

Sponsored by Sanford Middle Student Government
Friday, May 13, 2016
6:00pm to 9:00pm

DANCE GUIDELINES:

- **Only Sanford Middle School 8th grade students may attend the dance.**
- Charge: Free
- Snacks will be available during the dance at no charge.
- Dance hours are 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm; **all students must be picked up by 9:15 pm.**
- **No Limos**
- Parents - Pick-up your student at the bus ramp at the back of the school or the car ramp in the front of the school.
- All students attending the dance must remain in the designated area (Main Gym).
- Students may not leave the dance early unless a parent or guardian checks them out at the front entrance of the dance with a school official.
- Students may not return to the dance after leaving.
- The SEMINOLE COUNTY STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE CODE is enforced during our dances and all students are expected to comply. **Any student misbehavior may result in immediate removal from the dance. Further consequences may be warranted.**
- **Dress code:** Semi-formal (Dress nicely like going to a fancy restaurant.)
 - **Boys:** Nice pants and shirt with a tie. Jackets recommended. Appropriate hats allowed.
 - **Girls:** Spaghetti straps and halter tops allowed. Not revealing.
 - NO strapless dresses.
 - Dress length: dresses should be at least the same length as school shorts (mid thigh). Slits on long dresses must go no higher than school shorts length (mid thigh).
- A photographer will be at the dance to take pictures of participants. Photos will cost \$1.00 per 4"x6" picture. This must be paid at the dance when the picture is taken. Pictures will be distributed the week after the dance through their social studies teachers.
- Students must have a school ID to get in. (If needed, a temporary ID's will be distributed the week of the dance through History class).
- Students are responsible for their own belongings (purses, cameras, etc.) that they bring.
- Students must be in attendance the day of the dance until 1:30PM to attend the dance.
- **Discipline: 8th grade students that receive ISS or OSS starting on February 10, 2016 (3Q Progress Report) through May 13, 2016 (Dance Night) will NOT be allowed to attend the dance.**

Revised 11/13/15



Sanford Middle School students have up to 5 FREE active user licenses for Microsoft Office 365! Check Sanford Middle's website for more information or log into your Skyward account through ePassport and read your messages.

Parents sign up for your FREE eCampus account, instructions are now available on our website when you click on ECAMPUS FAMILY ACCESS.

Yearbook

Now is the time to make sure your student doesn't miss out on this year's yearbook. The cost is \$40. We also have limited space for you to bring recognition to your favorite student(s) by reserving space in the recognition section. Whether your desire is to purchase a yearbook and accessories or purchase a recognition ad, all you need to do is go to www.jostens.com to place your order. If you have any questions please contact Stephanie Keener at stephanie_keener@scps.k12.fl.us or (407)320-6150.

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FSA Test

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will take the computer-based Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) beginning April 11, 2016. Your student will have an opportunity to participate in a practice test to become familiar with the computer-based testing platform, item types, and response formats he or she will see on the FSA assessments. If you or your student would like to review the computer-based practice test at home, the practice tests and answer keys are available at <http://www.fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/>.

For information regarding test session lengths for all Spring 2016 FSA assessments, please visit the FSA Portal at www.fsassessments.org, click on the **Students and Families** icon, and then select *Spring 2016 Testing Times*.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing OR during breaks (e.g., restroom), **even if they are turned off or students do not use them.** If your student is found with an electronic device, his or her test will be invalidated.
- **Calculators**—For Grades 7 and 8 Mathematics, **approved calculators may be used during SESSIONS 2 and 3 ONLY.** For EOC assessments, **approved calculators may be used during SESSION 2 ONLY.** If students have handheld calculators during Session 1, their tests will be invalidated.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**—All FSA tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment that reads, “I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these rules, my test score may be invalidated.” Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by signing below the statement on their planning sheets, worksheets, or work folders.
- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**—The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they sign below the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states, “Because the content in all statewide assessments is secure, you may not discuss or reveal details about the passages or items after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or

posting online, for example, on websites like Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.” Please make sure your student understands that “discussing” test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to blogs or social media websites. **While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.**

- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated. FDOE employs a test security company, Caveon Test Security, to analyze student test results to detect unusually similar answer patterns. Student tests within a school that are found to have extremely similar answer patterns will have their results invalidated.
- **Leaving Campus**—If your student begins a test session and leaves campus before completing it (for lunch, an appointment or illness, etc.), he or she WILL NOT be allowed to complete that test session. If your student does not feel well on the day of testing, it may be best for him or her to wait and be tested on a make-up day. Please remember not to schedule appointments on testing days.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an IEP or Section 504 plan, please contact the school to discuss the testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Richard Burkett at 407-320-6204 Richard_Burkett@scps.k12.fl.us. For more information about the FSA program, please visit the FSA Portal at www.fsassessments.org.

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Sincerely,
Randy Shuler, Principal

FSA, FCAT Science and EOC Testing Windows

Test Name	Dates of Window	PBT (Paper) /CBT(Computer)	# of Sessions / Length
FSA Writing 6	3/1 Test day; Make-ups 3/2-3/4	PBT	1 session – 120 minutes; 1 day
FSA Writing 7	3/1 Test day; Make-ups 3/2-3/4	PBT	1 session – 120 minutes; 1 day
FSA Writing 8	2/29 – 3/11	CBT	1 session – 120 minutes; 1 day
FCAT Science 2.0 Gr 8	4/5/16 Test day; Make-ups 4/6-4/7	PBT	2 sessions / 160 minutes (1 day)
FSA ELA 6	4/11/16 – 4/20/16	CBT	2 sessions – 170 minutes (85 minutes each); 2 days
FSA ELA 7	4/11/16 – 4/20/16	CBT	2 sessions – 170 minutes (85 minutes each); 2 days
FSA ELA 8	4/11/16 – 4/20/16	CBT	2 sessions – 170 minutes (85 minutes each); 2 days
FSA Math 6	4/21/16 - 4/29/16	CBT	3 sessions / 180 minutes total (60 minutes each); 2 days
FSA Math 7	4/21/16 - 4/29/16	CBT	3 sessions / 180 minutes total (60 minutes each); 2 days
FSA Math 8	4/21/16 - 4/29/16	CBT	3 sessions / 180 minutes total (60 minutes each); 2 days
FSA Geometry	5/2/16 – 5/3/16	CBT	2 sessions / 180 minutes total (90 minutes each); 2 days
FSA Alg 1	5/2/16-5/5/16	CBT	2 sessions / 180 minutes total (90 minutes each); 2 days
NGSSS Biology	5/9/16– 5/10/16	CBT	2 sessions / 160 minutes (1 day)
NGSSS Civics	5/11/16 – 5/13/16	CBT	2 sessions / 160 minutes (1 day)

Language Arts Department News

Sanford Reads and Writes!

From the Language Arts Curriculum Leader:

We have many Sanford Middle Warriors to celebrate this quarter!

Sanford Middle School Spelling Bee Winner

Congratulations to **Ria Balwalli**, Sanford Middle School's Spelling Bee Champion and to **Shirley Pandya**, the 1st Place Runner-Up! These students will represent Sanford Middle School at the SCPS County Spelling Bee competition on February 20, 2016! We wish Ria the best of luck! We also want to acknowledge and applaud all of the students who qualified as finalists in the School Spelling Bee competition.

Writes of Spring Winners

Sanford Middle School made an impressive showing with 15 winners in the 13th annual Writes of Spring contest. Parts of their pieces were woven into the play "Finding Freedom," written and presented by professional actors from the Orlando Repertory Theatre and UCF.

Congratulations to our young play writes!

6th graders:

- Noah Baker
- Connor Briggs
- Ashley Flay
- Kali Garcia
- James Hu
- Sasha Parks
- Danielle Shenkman
- Charlie Tate
- Anya Whyte

8th graders:

- Aishwarya Babuji
- Megan Blackadar
- Jenna Blanchard
- Safiya Dewji
- Austin English
- Samantha Sanville

Thespian State Competition Winners

The Sanford Middle School Thespian Troupe (competition drama club), led by Mrs. Rosichan, was wildly successful at the state competition! The following students earned medals for excellent and superior performances.

Duet Acting

- Chynna Orr – Excellent
- Amaya Orr – Excellent

Monologue

- Emma Arigo – Superior
- Marina Kalin – Superior

Solo Musical

- Jillian Abreu – Superior
- Danielle Shenkman – Superior
- Brooke Algin – Excellent

Improvisation

- Jillian Abreu – Superior
- Kendall Kurila – Superior
- Dawson Moore – Superior
- Gregory Queen – Superior
- Reece Rosen – Excellent
- Lindsay Rosichan – Excellent

If your child hasn't participated in the Sunshine State Young Reader Award program at Sanford Middle yet, encourage them to do so! The list is available on

the Sanford Middle website under the "Students" section. The response form is now digital, and can be accessed on the Sanford Middle website under Students, SSYRA. Encourage your student to keep reading!

Teacher Tip: THREE SECOND RULE: When spelling words you SHOULD know, take THREE seconds to check your spelling AND usage for correctness. For example: there, their, they're, your, you're, its, it's, to, two, too...

-Liz Kelsey, Language Arts Curriculum Leader

6th Grade

This year is flying by! Testing Season is now upon us. The sixth-grade language arts teachers continue to guide students through academic writing in preparation for the writing portion of the FSA, which will be administered March 1. We are presenting how to write an essay in a step by step process. Students also explored Greek myths and how they are visible and relevant in today's society through business names and logos. Ask your child about the Siren on the Starbucks cup and about the Pegasus that represents the University of Central Florida!

One of the authors we will study this nine weeks will be Florida author, Carl Hiaasen. His story, FLUSH, will be a springboard into discussions for our cross curricular topic: Human Impact on Water. Please have table top discussions with your child about this issue: locally, nationally, and globally. Our sixth-grade team was awarded a grant so that each classroom has a class set of the novel FLUSH, thanks to the SCPS Grants for Great Ideas initiative! We are grateful.

Feel free to contact us with any questions you may have during the year. Thank you for supporting what we do at school by talking to your child at home each night about what they are learning and doing in class each day. It will be time well spent because we are a team...home, student, school.

-Susan Cline, Kathryn Murrow, Karen Pharis, Joseph Ragoonanan, Jennifer Rosichan, Alisa Wendorff, & Cathy Jo Williams

7th Grade

The 7th Grade Language Arts students have been working incredibly hard, putting their writing minds to work. As the FSA Writes approaches, students have been writing nearly every day in some form or another. Teachers have been giving students all the resources they need to be as prepared as possible, so the upcoming essay should be a breeze! Students have been focusing on practice prompts for both informational and argumentative writing, taking time to closely examine the prompt and "unpack" it for understanding. These methods include TAP, where students identify the **Task** (the big question or idea), Audience (who the paper is written for), and **Purpose** (informative or argumentative). This has proved to make the task of writing much easier and less overwhelming for the students, as they are learning to work in smaller steps in order to make their papers cohesive, informative, and clear.

-Matt Walters, Terri Warren, Katie Cecil, Kathryn Murrow & Sydnie Pleasants

8th Grade

During the third quarter, students are participating in several Writing Boot Camps to increase their knowledge of the academic writing style and process. In the Boot Camps, students are creating, peer-reviewing, and analyzing informational and argumentative essays. Students are learning to use several strategies and tips, such as, Mind Mapping (planning strategy), SWWIM and text-based stems (elaboration strategies), using the PEEL graphic organizer to reverse organize a paragraph (revision strategy). With regards to reading, students continue to analyze passages for theme, central idea, author's point of view/purpose, and text structures. Students are required to cite textual evidence that supports their analysis. In addition, students are focusing on how authors' selection of word choice emphasizes key ideas, impacts tone, and reveals the author's style and voice. With some hard work and a positive attitude, we are shooting for the stars this quarter!

-Kelly Woods, Elizabeth Kelsey, Sydnie Pleasants & Nicole Wesley

Mathematics Department News

Sanford Solves! ...continued

6th Grade Intensive Math

Students in intensive math are using the TTM program. *Think Through Math* (TTM) is a computer program designed to accelerate students in mathematical skill mastery. Using this individualized and adaptive instructional tool, students receive immediate feedback at every step as well as unprecedented access to live, state-certified online math teachers. This literally means that as students work at their computers, they receive just-in-time intervention—precisely when they need it! Based on the data gleaned from the program, teachers will work with students in small groups for intensive, hands-on instruction to build both conceptual understanding as well as application skills.

Intensive math students will be graded based on the individual pace of the student. The students will have 3 grades each week. The first grade is the TTM post quiz average (the lesson grades each week). The second grade is TTM goal (whether or not the goal the student set for themselves is met), and TTM Journal (having students take notes while doing the TTM lessons).

Students may work on the TTM program from home. The website is <http://lms.thinkthroughmath.com>. The username and password is the same one they use during class.

6th Grade Math 1

For the remainder of the 3rd quarter, 6th grade will be starting our Relationships in Geometry Unit with Module 13 which is the skill finding the AREA of polygons. We will use FORMULAS to find the area of given polygons and composite shapes. Module 15 expands on area further by moving from 2-dimensional polygons to 3-dimensional shapes such as rectangular prisms to find the SURFACE AREA and VOLUME once again by utilizing formulas for the given object. We are also starting our FSA preparations with packets containing a multitude of sample problems so we can review the skills we have learned this year and keep them fresh in our memory for the State Assessment Program. The 4th quarter will begin with a unit on Measurement and Data, which is our last unit based on 6th grade skill. After that, our focus will be on getting ready for 7th grade and making sure our students have the necessary prerequisite skills.

6th Math Advanced

Students in 6th grade math have been very busy this quarter! They explored the world of operations with integers and rational numbers, computed the surface area, and volume of regular and irregular shapes, and are currently starting their journey into statistics. Over the next few weeks, these star warriors will use statistics to predict data and finish the quart off with an Amplify Project, “Straw Rockets.” As students enter the fourth quarter, we will be preparing for FSA and then getting ready for pre-algebra next year!

GEM:

We have finished all the Virtual Bridge portion of the GEM program (YEA). Mrs. Wong’s class finished their Amplify project – Hot Air Balloon Races. See below.



We are now on unit 8 Probability. We will continue to work on 7th and 8th grade standards (Function, Monomials, Negative Exponents, and Pythagorean Theorem). We will also be starting our FSA countdown, to help prepare our GEM students for their FSA (schedule test dates 4/21 – 4/29).

7th Grade Intensive Math

The seventh grade math intensive students are working diligently through the curriculum provided in Think Through Math. Several of our students have attended the Think Thirty party celebrating passing thirty lessons on our challenging program. Congratulations to those students!

We are starting to review for the FSA test in class using the materials provided with our curriculum. This will be a different review than given in our regular math class. Students will continue to work in the Think Through Math Program but will spend a class period per week on the review materials. Looking forward to working together to head into the testing season!

7th Grade Math

Seventh grade students have been concentrating on solving real life and mathematical problems involving geometric figures, using formulas to solve problems, and solving multi-step equations of unknown angles and dimensions. Students have learned formulas for finding circumference, area and volume and used them to solve and explain real world situations. Students are currently engaged in activities relating to probability and statistics. Students will also be preparing for the FSA test. Students are encouraged to use the Florida Standards Portal on the SMS homepage to practice and prepare for the FSA. Homework is an essential part of reinforcing the concepts covered in class. It is imperative that students are practicing and completing homework assignments. Students must review material and practice daily to be successful.

7th Math Advanced

The advanced 7th grade classes are working hard and there is no stopping our momentum! We are ending the 3rd quarter with probability and a fun amplify project. After coming back from the break, we’re going to wrap up data analysis & statistics and diving right into 8th grade standards. We’ll be focusing heavily on 8th grade topics and doing transformations, applying real numbers and the Pythagorean Theorem to prepare the students for 8th grade. Remember to continue to monitor Skyward for your child’s progress and to be sure all work is turned in on time.

As we get closer to FSA, keep your eyes peeled for additional resources on Ecampus/Skyward/Schoolology. It’s very important that we work together as a team to prepare ourselves for the FSA scheduled for April 4/21 – 4/29.

8th Grade Intensive

8th graders are working hard on TTM. Don’t forget that they are able to access Think Through Math at home to increase their Math skills. This week we have started FSA Countdown and tackling each standard so that our students are ready for their last Math FSA Exam.

Pre-Algebra

It’s already been a whole semester and we have seen such a growth in our eighth grade Pre-Algebra students. Our students have worked very hard as we have ended our longest unit this year, which covered Solving Systems of Equations. As we moved forward with transformations at the start of the third quarter, many students took quite an interest in the study of Geometry. As we continue our exploration of this sector of mathematics a little bit more, students will be learning about angle relationships, the Pythagorean Theorem, and volume of three-dimensional shapes. We are so excited to see what’s ahead for our eighth grade students. Parents, if you have not yet been on the FSA Portal to take the practice eighth grade math test with your student, we suggest you do so! It is a great way to help your student become familiar with the types of questions they will be seeing during testing in the fourth quarter.

Algebra:

The third quarter began with an intense unit called, “Polynomial Expressions and Equations.” We analyzed polynomials expressions and operations before learning how to factor polynomials. This quarter, we will also master quadratic equations and the Quadratic Formula. Guardians and students are encouraged to utilize our classroom notes and the many digital resources available via ePassport to extend classroom learning in order to be successful with the rigor required in this high school course. Daily lessons and calendar information are posted on eCampus (accessible via ePassport).

continued on next page...

Mathematics Department News

Sanford Solves! ...continued

Algebra 1 Honors

It seems like so far away, but the end of the school year is near. As students enroll for next year's class we begin to prepare for the conclusion of this year. Algebra 1 students are required to pass the End of Course (EOC) exam. Passing this exam is a requirement for high school graduation. Algebra 1 students only take an EOC, they do not take an FSA. The Algebra EOC will be the first week of May.

To begin preparing for this test, all Algebra 1 Honors students have been given a workbook called Algebra Nation which they should be completing each week. Students will have sections to do on their own as well as the sections we do in class. It is imperative that students do not fall behind on completing this work as it will become very overwhelming as we get closer to the test. Algebra Nation has an online component that works through every page of the workbook with the students. This is the study guide/review for the EOC.

As always, encourage our little mathematicians to work hard and practice, practice, practice!

Geometry Honors

Our Geometry the students will continue their study of constructions while they incorporate area and perimeter as well as special triangles. The final project for the 9 weeks will involve creating a dream house for one of our celebrities at Sanford Middle School. The students will get to experience a Real-World situation in which they are the contractor/designer and are completing to have their project earn them "the winning bid". Thanks to SMS PTSA, gift cards will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners, as well as other special accolades. The 9 weeks exam will be held the week of March 14-17. The Geometry FSA will be held May 2 and 3.

Science Department News

Sanford Inquires!

Earth and Space Science

Earth Space Science students have been studying about the layers of the atmosphere and how they protect humans from the harmful effects of the radiation from the Sun. They have also been studying about Weather vs. Climate. Soon they will learn about the different Natural Disasters that affect Floridians, and how we deal with consequences of them. (Things like Hurricanes, Wildfires, Sinkholes and Tornadoes.) As we enter the last week or two of the quarter, our final focus will be about the ways that Humans have impacted the Earth, and how we can reduce that impact. As we enter into the fourth quarter, our focus will be on Astronomy. We will study the history of NASA and space exploration. The brightness and colors of stars and what that information tells us. And we will learn about the planets and the different models of the Solar System throughout recorded History.

Physical Science

In physical science students have begun learning about the foundations of chemistry. We started the third quarter learning about heat transfer and its effects on changing states of matter. Students created timelines for the various atomic models throughout history and learned how the periodic table is organized. Several students took on the challenge of learning the periodic table in order, all 118 elements! As we close the third quarter students will focus on classifying matter using physical properties such as density and investigate compounds and the pH scale.

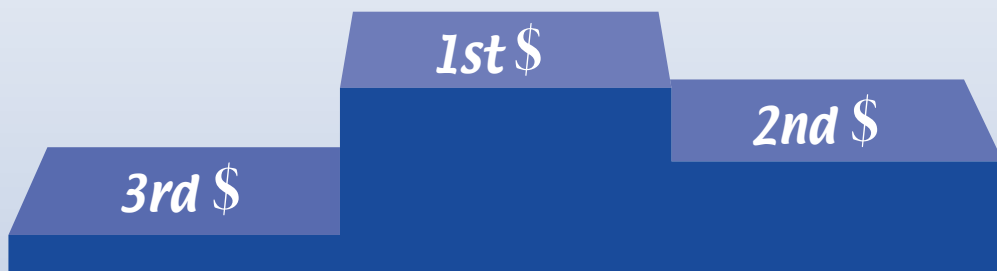
Life Science

Life Science students have been studying body systems and how they work together to maintain homeostasis of the human body. Students have made body models, dissected chicken wings and frogs, and tested heart and respiratory rates. We will be moving on to studying how the immune system works to protect the body from pathogens. Be ready to ask your child if they survived the zombie plague.

Biology

Biology students have been learning about plant structures and how those structures impact plant processes like photosynthesis. Students have examined stomata of leaves under the microscope under different conditions, and they have investigated how environmental hazards impact seed germination and growth of various plants. We will be moving on to environmental topics including the organization of the biosphere, energy flow in ecosystems, and cycles. After environmental our last unit before the EOC will be body systems.

Reminder: All biology students should currently be reviewing for the biology EOC on a regular basis. Students may use the class Quizlets as well as the Escambia County Biology EOC website as review aids.




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Social Studies Department News

Sanford Explores!

6th Grade World History

This quarter we will be studying Ancient Rome, Christianity, and preparing the students to enter in to civics, as well as preparing for the Standards Based Assessment that will count as 10% of your student's grade. During our study of Rome we will touch on the difference between the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire, the Pax Romana, the gladiators, the engineering feats accomplished by the Romans, and the reasons for the decline and fall. We will also be analyzing documents through our county DBQ project on citizenship in Athens vs Rome and the Fall of Rome. Then we will teach the beliefs and key figures of early Christianity.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us:

Mrs. Akrivos	Joann_Friedman@scps.k12.fl.us
Mrs. Dilmore	Jennifer_Dilmore@scps.k12.fl.us
Ms. Heriot	Karen_Heriot@scps.k12.fl.us
Mrs. Schwartz	Meghan_Schwartz@scps.k12.fl.us
Ms. Stewart	Keri_Stewart@scps.k12.fl.us

7th Grade Civics

In the third quarter we taught the basics of the American Law system, the Constitution and the Amendments. In the fourth quarter, Civics students are launching into their study of U.S. Foreign policy. Students will understand the difference between domestic and foreign policy, recognize government and citizen participation in international organizations, and describe examples of how the United States has dealt with international conflicts. Directly after that, we will catapult into our review for the End of Course Exam for Civics.

As we dive deeper into our study of U.S. Civics, the entire Civics team will continue to infuse technology in our curriculum to enhance learning for students. Students are actively familiarizing themselves with the state benchmarks. As a whole, we are incorporating analyzing primary source documents, reciprocal teaching strategies to improve students' reading, and as always, utilizing writing activities to enhance students' writing. These techniques align with the requirements of the Civics End of Course Exam.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us:

Ms. Coursin	Jennifer_Coursin@scps.k12.fl.us
Mr. Keogh	Craig_Keogh@scps.k12.fl.us
Mr. Pou	Miguel_Pou@scps.k12.fl.us
Mrs. Schwartz	Meghan_Schwartz@scps.k12.fl.us
Mr. Sutton	Adrian_Sutton@scps.k12.fl.us

8th Grade US History

The fourth 9 weeks will be focused on the ideas and events that divided the United States in the 1800's and eventually led to the Civil War. This includes the growing differences between North & South. The growing sectionalism in our country led to deep divisions over such issues as slavery, tariffs and states' rights. These divisions ultimately led to war. We will finish the year with a study of one of the most pivotal events in US History, the Civil War and the subsequent period of Reconstruction.

All students will be taking a county exam in early May on things we have learned all year. It is important that students keep focused and work on learning things for the long term.

Homework Issues: As students are soon moving into high school, this is the time to make sure good study habits are developed and in place! Check their planner every night and make sure they are writing it down, completing it, and turning it in. Your help with this issue would be greatly appreciated and will prove hugely helpful to your student!

Reminders: Planners are the key! Students should write in their planner EVERY day, in EVERY class. If they have no homework, it should say, "no homework". If it's empty, they aren't paying attention in class and they probably aren't turning in their assignments!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us:

Dr. Dorman	Brian_Dorman@scps.k12.fl.us
Mr. Keogh	Craig_Keogh@scps.k12.fl.us
Mr. Smith	Rick_Smith@scps.k12.fl.us
Ms. Stewart	Keri_Stewart@scps.k12.fl.us
Mr. Travis	Mike_Travis@scps.k12.fl.us

Reading News

Sanford Reads!

Why Read?

Our reading team is working hard to make sure that all of our students are ready for the upcoming FSA testing. Many parents have asked us, how they can help their students at home. The answer is simple- read. A student who reads just twenty minutes outside of school a day will gain access to 1,800,000 more words per year (Nagy & Herman 1987). Please encourage your student to find a book or magazine that interests them, read it, and discuss what they have read. This familiarity with new vocabulary will benefit them for years to come.

2015-2016 Sunshine State Young Readers Award Program:

SSYRA -- **READ AS MANY BOOKS AS YOU CAN** during the school year! WHY?!? Because there are great prizes and reward parties to enjoy! How do you participate? By successfully reading and completing the reader response activity based on these award-winning books. The reader response activity is the same activity that was used for the SMS 2015 Summer Reading requirements-and we will accept summer reading forms done on Sunshine State books! **To be eligible for the quarterly incentive party students must turn in their assignments to their Language Arts teachers by the following deadlines:**

- *3rd Quarter:* Read and turn in **3** additional Reader Responses by **March 16th**.
- *4th Quarter:* Read and turn in **at least 3** additional Reader Responses by **May 2nd**.

If students complete the assignment for ALL 15 Books, in addition to the incentives, they become eligible for recognition at the SMS Award Ceremony in May. You will find these books at the public libraries and at book stores. (if you purchase a title, please consider donating it to your Language Arts teacher once you have read it.) ALL Language Arts classroom teachers will have titles to check out very soon!

Please visit <http://www.sanford.scps.k12.fl.us> under the Students Tab, under SSYRA for all information and Reader Response forms!

Please contact Kelly Berman ckberman5@gmail.com with any questions.

2015-2016 SSYRA Book List

- *Counting by 7s* — Holly Goldberg Sloan
- *The Eighth Day* — Dianne K. Salerno
- *Eye of the Storm* — Kate Messner
- *Jack Strong Takes a Stand* — Tommy Greenwald
- *Jungle of Bones* — Ben Mikaelson
- *The Night Gardener* — Jonathan Auxier
- *Project Jackalope* — Emily Ecton
- *The Secret of Rover* — Rachel Wildavsky
- *Seeing Red* — Kathryn Erskine
- *Skink – No Surrender* — Carl Hiaasen
- *Stung* — Bethany Wiggins
- *Tesla's Attic* — Neal Shusterman and Eric Elfman
- *The Testing* — Joelle Charbonneau
- *This Journal Belongs to Ratchet* — Nancy J. Cavanaugh
- *Twerp* — Mark Goldblatt

Interventions Department News

Sanford Learns!

The SMS guidance department has been very busy attending parent teacher conferences, conducting IEP meetings, transition meetings, and articulating with both the elementary and area high schools for our students. We are also preparing our ESE students to take the FSA/FSAA tests.

With FSA Testing around the corner, PARENTS here are some tips on how you can help your child be prepared:

How can you help before testing?

- Have your child read for focused periods of time to increase reading stamina.
- Have your child practice reading “less interesting” materials.
- Ask questions about what they have read.
- Ask them to make real world connections to the concepts they are learning in school (example: identify the theme of an episode of their favorite television show).
- Have them prove/disprove answers.

The Day of Testing

- Make sure they get a good night’s sleep.
- Have your child eat a nutritious breakfast.
- Aim for a stress-free morning.
- Make sure students get to school on time.
- Encourage them to do their best and use their strategies.

For more information please visit: <http://fsassessments.org>.

Humanities and Wellness

Department News

Sanford Enlightens & Strengthens!

Spanish 7th Grade – Ms. Díaz

Students are reviewing basic concepts learned in previous beginning/lower level Spanish. These basic concepts include: the classroom objects, classroom commands, days, months, seasons, colors, numbers, and other helpful vocabulary needed at this time. In grammar, students will be learning how to use, identify, and choose correct gender and number in adjectives, nouns, and articles. In addition, students will be learning about how to order food or a beverage at a café, identify some food, shop for food, talk about activities and talk about differences between eating habits in the United States and in the Spanish-speaking world. In grammar, students will be learning the conjugation in the present tense of regular verbs ending in “ar”, “er”, and “ir”. Additionally, students will read the Lecturas Culturales “*En un café en Madrid*” and “*Las horas para comer*”.

Physical Education

This spring we are enjoying the fresh air and getting outside. We have started our units that included; basketball, football, volleyball and soccer. Our elective classes are in full swing as well.

Basketball try-outs will be the first week in March. All students must have a release and consent form to try-out.

Varsity Cheer try-outs will be held in late spring. Please check out our website SMSCheer.com

Technology Department News

Sanford Computes!

Aeronautics

A new year, a new semester and 6 new classes of excited Aeronautics’ students. The Aero 1 students were introduced to the history of flight starting with ancient myths of flying, the early science of Leonardo DaVinci and the trials and tribulations of the Wright Brothers. They capped off their first month learning about the heroic exploits of Charles Lindbergh and his 1927 flight across the Atlantic Ocean. The Aero 1 students have done very well in their introductory flight simulators and have just completed their first free flight missions over New York City, Washington DC and a memorial salute in the skies over Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and the USS Arizona Memorial.

The **Aero 2** students started off learning about the jet age and Chuck Yeager breaking the sound barrier. In the first six weeks we covered the history of the jet age and a good introduction into the space age. The Aero 2 students successfully flew their own missions from Orlando International Airport to Disney World to Lake Apopka and then a safe landing at Sanford Airport. Currently they are planning new flights around major airports throughout the United States. The Aero 2 students also completed their first multi-player mission, called “Defense of New York City”, when after the lesson on 9-11, they got a chance to defend the city by flying air patrols and searches as teams in the skies over Manhattan.

Aero 3 students figuratively had an out of this world experience learning about the solar system and the history of the space program. They learned details of the Apollo moon missions and learned how the spacecraft were built and the valuable scientific achievements of these flights. The students flew two complex missions learning about the effect of strong winds on flying, when they had to navigate over the skies of San Francisco Bay. In the advance flight simulator, the students are learning the complexities of mountain flying and flight operations around the Hoover Dam and Las Vegas, Nevada.



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