

# A Message from the Principal

Hello Sea Lion Nation,

I remain eternally grateful for the community of support that we have and continue to build. Through you and this partnership we share, I have the privilege to be able to truthfully say that I come to work each day with both joy and appreciation. I thank you for that privilege and your continued commitment.

As a school we have had such an improvement overall. This includes a substantial increase and improvement in our school data. Community involvement is much more noticeable and the culture and climate is so much better based on the results of the parent, teacher, and student surveys.

We are on an amazing trajectory to bring the “A” back to Southwest Middle School and some great things are coming next school year. Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing everyone in August. Until next school year!

Gooooo Sea Lions!!

Damian Rosado, Principal

## Important Telephone Numbers

Southwest Middle School  
6450 Dr. Phillips Blvd. • Orlando, FL 32819  
Phone: (407) 370-7200 • Fax: (407) 370-7210

Front Desk	5252221
Secretary	5252223
Bookkeeper	5252225
Clinic	5252229
Attendance	5252220
Cafeteria	5252226
Media Center	5252227
Discipline Office	5252244

### Vision

A safe place where higher learning, creativity, and an appreciation for diversity lead to achievement.

### Mission

To create a safe environment where learning is our priority, diversity is respected, and achievements are celebrated.

### Core Values

We are committed to providing:

- A Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
- Rigorous Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessments
- Supportive Interventions for Academics and Behavior
- A Caring Atmosphere Where Family Involvement is Embraced

**VOL 31 | NO. 3 | JULY 2024**

# the SEA LANE

**FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF & COMMUNITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL**



## Testing

Students wrapped up another successful round of testing to end the school year. Students completed their Common Final Exams (CFEs) in their classes. If your child was absent for any of their CFEs, we will have a make-up testing window in July. Students needing to take a CFE will need to email our school's Testing Coordinator, Mr. Daniel Sapp, and inform him of which CFE your child will need to make-up. His email is Daniel.sapp@ocps.net.

We will also have our 7th grade Summer Civics EOC test date on July 16th. Please, contact Mr. Sapp via email if your child did not take their Civics EOC in May. If your child is unable to test on this date, please email Mr. Sapp and let him know. Arrangements can possibly be made to test on a different date.

Lastly, we will also have our Summer B.E.S.T Algebra 1 EOC test date on July 17th. Please, contact Mr. Sapp via email if your child did not take the B.E.S.T. Algebra 1 EOC in May or would like to re-take it. If your child is unable to test on this date, please email Mr. Sapp and let him know. Arrangements can possibly be made to test on a different date.



## SAFE

Mr. Peter Singletary, SAFE Coordinator

Email: peter.singletary@ocps.net

Below are resources that you can use if your child is ever in need of immediate mental health support or crisis intervention:

### Mobile Crisis Services

Call 211 or 407-839-HELP for Mobile Crisis Services. Mobile crisis services are available to anyone ages 0-24 located in Orange, Osceola, or Seminole County at the time of crisis. A master level therapist will respond to homes, schools, or anywhere within the tri-county community, within 60 minutes to provide immediate on-site crisis stabilization. Crisis therapists also connect families with additional long-term services in order to maintain stabilization. Services are free but parental consent is required.

### 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

If you or someone you know needs support now, call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

Ms. Kayla Rivers, School Social Worker

Email: kayla.rivers@ocps.net

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# Digital Media Center



Students and staff: Access thousands of popular eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines with Sora in Launchpad!

1. Log in to launch.ocps.net



2. Open the Library Research Tools folder



3. Open the Sora reading app



Sora is an online reading app that gives students access to thousands of popular eBooks, audiobooks and magazines. Students can access Sora through their Launchpad or the app can be downloaded for free on a cell phone or tablet. This year over \$1,000 was spent on purchasing new and popular eBooks and audiobooks for Southwest Middle School students.

**Reminder:** Please, pay any library fines that your child may owe. If your child did not return their school-issued device, they can drop it off at the Front Office any day Monday through Thursday from 8:00am-5:00pm.



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 Orange County Public Schools  
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## Surplus

SGA and NJHS students have been sorting food and clothing donations, but it has been concluded that there is a surplus. Please contact me to schedule a time to pick up food and clothes if your family is in need. I can be reached via email (kayla.rivers@ocps.net) or telephone (407-370-7200 ext. 5252292).

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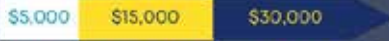
CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CLASSROOM GRANTS



STATE OF THE ART AUDIO SYSTEM



## FOLLOW OUR GROWTH



FACEBOOK: SWMSSEALIONFUND



EMAIL: SWMSSEALIONFUND@GMAIL.COM

# 2023-2024 GOALS



**STATE OF THE ART AUDIO SYSTEM**

\$30,000



**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GRANTS**

\$15,000



**CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION**

\$5,000



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## Sea Lion Fund

The Southwest Middle School Sea Lion Fund is a partnership of student families, community members, and alumni (one day soon) who wish to enhance the experience of our Sea Lion students through generous, charitable contributions.

The purpose of the Sea Lion Fund is to support the staff, faculty, and students at Southwest Middle School by providing enhanced facilities, supplemental resources that reinforce student achievement, increased opportunities for faculty and staff to augment their professional development and a universal expansion in student opportunities for success.

Contributions can be made at any time and will be tax deductible. The Sea Lion Fund can receive gifts via cash, check (payable to FOCPS), or credit card, in one payment or multiple installments throughout the school year. Checks should be mailed to the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools at 445 West Amelia Street, Orlando, FL. 32801. In the memo section, please place Southwest Middle School.

The fund maintains a separate account at the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools and can only be used to benefit Southwest Middle School. All gifts are tax-deductible as a contribution to a 501(c)(3) organization with transparency and full disclosure.

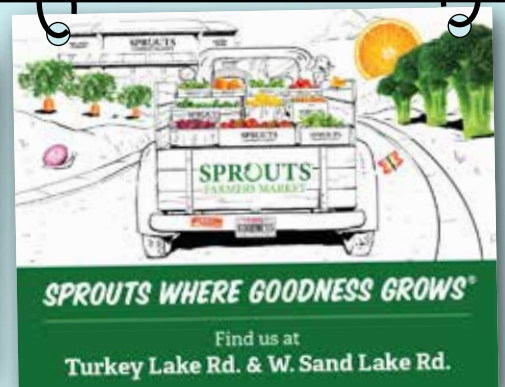
The Southwest Middle School Sea Lion Fund's success is a result of those that invest in our student's future and therefore, help ensure a more positive and bright future for generations to come.

### YOU ARE THE MISSING PIECE!

Help **Southwest Middle School** by advertising in the *The Sea Line!*

Your advertisement helps fund the newsletter and at the SAME TIME your business gets community recognition and exposure.

**Daniel Sapp • [daniel.sapp@ocps.net](mailto:daniel.sapp@ocps.net)**

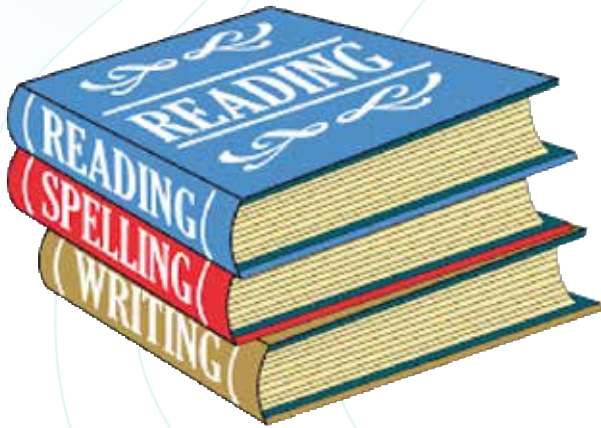


# Curriculum News

## Language Arts

The Language Arts Department at Southwest Middle School would like to thank all students for their hard work and dedication to trying their best during the school year. We saw many great results and improvements over the course of the school year.

We hope you all enjoy your summer and do not forget to READ!



## Mathematics

All Math teachers here at Southwest Middle School wish to extend their sincerest appreciation to all our students. Your hard work over the course of this school year is showing great promise in your Math scores showing gains. You all rock!

If your child did not take their Algebra 1 Honors EOC, there is a test date during the summer on Wednesday, July 17th. You can email our school's testing coordinator (daniel.sapp@ocps.net) in order to arrange for your child to take this exam.

Have a great summer. Best of luck to our 8th graders going to high school and we will see our 6th and 7th graders in August.

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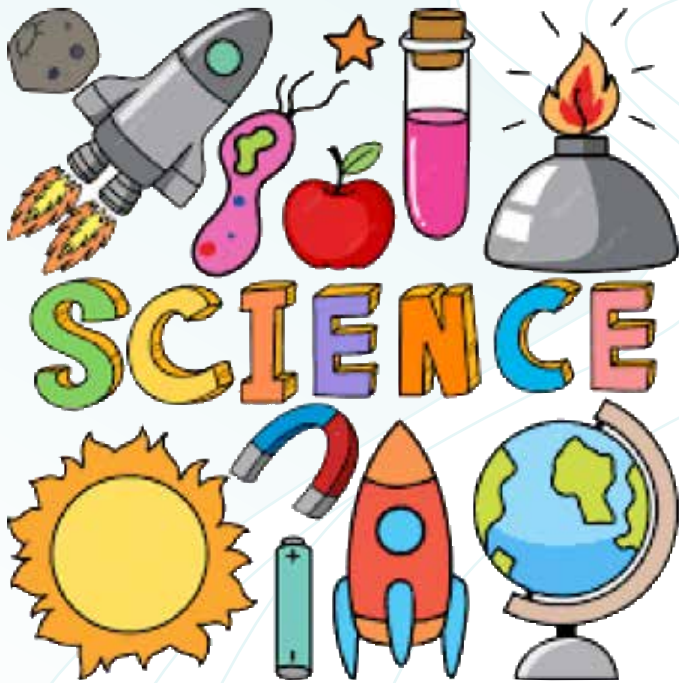
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## Science

The Science Department wishes all students a wonderful summer vacation. Explore the world and experience the many great things we discuss in class!



# SCIENCE



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Our department congratulates all of our students for a successful year. Your hard work is going to show great progress for all.

If your child did not take their Civics EOC (7th graders only), there is a test date during the summer on Tuesday, July 16th. You can email our school's testing coordinator ([daniel.sapp@ocps.net](mailto:daniel.sapp@ocps.net)) in order to arrange for your child to take this exam.

Have a safe and fun summer!

## We need spots filled...



## ...Can YOU help?

Support  
**Southwest Middle School**  
 by advertising in the  
*The Sea Line!*

This is a wonderful way for your business to get community recognition and exposure, and at the *SAME TIME* help support your local schools!

Contact the school today for more information.

**Southwest Middle School**  
 407-370-7200

## Is It Really Bullying?

Bullying is a serious problem in our society and in our schools. No one should be exposed to bullying and those who witness these acts should report them immediately. The administration at Maumee High School aggressively investigates reports of bullying and works diligently to keep our students safe. What many people don't know is that bullying actually carries a very specific definition and that certain criterion must be met before someone can be disciplined for bullying. While we don't like it, people can be mean, rude, obnoxious, or not like each other without ever reaching the threshold of bullying. This guide has been developed by the Maumee City Schools to help parents determine the difference between mean behaviors, rude behaviors and bullying:

### Rude = Inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else.

From kids, rudeness might look more like burping in someone's face, jumping ahead in line, bragging about achieving the highest grade or even throwing a crushed up piece of paper in someone's face. On their own, any of these behaviors could appear as elements of bullying, but when looked at in context, incidents of rudeness are usually spontaneous, unplanned inconsideration, based on thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism, but not meant to actually hurt someone.

### Mean = Purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone.

The main distinction between "rude" and "mean" behavior has to do with intention; while rudeness is often unintentional, mean behavior very much aims to hurt or depreciate someone. Kids are mean to each other when they criticize clothing, appearance, intelligence, coolness or just about anything else they can find to denigrate. Meanness also sounds like words spoken in anger — impulsive cruelty that is often regretted in short order. Very often, mean behavior in kids (mean girls/mean boys) is motivated by angry feelings, personal insecurities, lack of self-worth, and/or the misguided goal of propping themselves up in comparison to the person they are putting down.

### Bullying = Intentionally aggressive behavior, repeated over time, that involves an imbalance of power.

Experts agree that bullying entails three key elements: (1) an intent to harm, (2) a power imbalance and (3) repeated acts or threats of aggressive behavior. Kids who bully say or do something intentionally hurtful to others and they keep doing it, with no sense of regret or remorse — even when targets of bullying show or express their hurt or tell the aggressors to stop.

Bullying may be physical, verbal, relational or carried out via technology:

- **Physical aggression** was once the gold standard of bullying— the "sticks and stones" that made adults in charge stand up and take notice. This kind of bullying includes hitting, punching, kicking, spitting, tripping, hair pulling, slamming a child into a locker and a range of other behaviors that involve physical aggression.
- **Verbal aggression** is what our parents used to advise us to "just ignore." We now know that despite the old adage, words and threats can, indeed, hurt and can even cause profound, lasting harm.
- **Relational aggression** is a form of bullying in which kids use their friendship—or the threat of taking their friendship away—to hurt someone. Social exclusion, shunning, hazing, and rumor spreading are all forms of this pervasive type of bullying that can be especially beguiling and crushing to kids.
- **Cyberbullying** is a specific form of bullying that involves technology. According to Hinduja and Patchin of the Cyberbullying Research Center, it is the "willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices." Notably, the likelihood of repeated harm is especially high with cyberbullying because electronic messages can be accessed by multiple parties, resulting in repeated exposure and repeated harm.



### What to do if this is happening to you

Student's Response	Rudeness	Meanness	Bullying
First few situations	Ignore, laugh, walk away	Ask student to stop and let them know if they do not you will tell an adult	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately
When you feel you want them to stop and first response are not working	Ask student to stop and let them know if they do not you will tell an adult	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately	
You want it to stop and you have told them to stop	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately		

### What to do if you witness this happening to someone

Student's Response	Rudeness	Meanness	Bullying
First few situations	Ignore, Politely tell the person in private that may have been rude	Ask student to stop and let them know if they do not you will tell an adult	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately
When you see it is bothering someone (hurting their feelings)	Ask student to stop and let them know if they do not you will tell an adult	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately	
When the student is not listening and continues to do it	Tell an adult- Get help Immediately		

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## What Do You Want to Do When You Grow Up?

If the average person changes careers 6-7 times in their lifetime, wouldn't it be wise to do some research before choosing a career that's supposed to last a lifetime? The most common reasons for changing a career are disillusionment of the job and not utilizing a person's strengths. With technology changing our work force at lightning speed, it's more important than ever for high school students to research careers that will align with their interests and strengths.

Two beneficial resources available to Florida high school students are Bigfuture by the College Board and the Kuder Navigator at Floridashines.

At [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org), students can choose topics in which they are interested, then combine these interests to get career ideas. These career ideas can lead to possible college majors. A plethora of information is available for students to learn more about what careers are out there and how to make career choices.

New to the Floridashines website is the Kuder Navigator in the MyCareerShines section. Students can use career assessments to explore careers in areas which their interests, skills, and work values align. Floridashines explains this new tool as follows:

- MyCareerShines Kuder Navigator® is an online planning tool made just for students in high school. It gives you everything you need to start planning for your future. You can:
  - Assess your interests and skills to connect with careers that are just right for you,
  - Explore the extensive catalog of careers to find exciting job opportunities in the dynamic 21st century economy,
  - Get information about colleges and financial aid to turn your plan into reality, and
  - Create a resume that gets you in the door and moves you up the ladder of success.

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## Orange County Public Schools 2024-2025 School Calendar

Day(s) of Week	Date(s)	Event
Fri.-Fri.	Aug. 2-9	Pre-Planning, Aug. 7-Professional Development Day
Mon.	Aug. 12	First Day of School
Mon.	Sep. 2	Labor Day Holiday
Fri.	Oct. 11	End of First Marking Period
Mon.	Oct. 14	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tue.	Oct. 15	Begin Second Marking Period
Fri.	Oct. 25	Teacher Professional Day, Student Holiday/Teacher Non-Workday
Mon.-Fri.	Nov. 25-29	Thanksgiving Break
Fri.	Dec. 20	End of Second Marking Period
Mon.-Fri., Two Weeks	Dec. 23-Jan. 3	Winter Break
Mon.	Jan. 6	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Tue.	Jan. 7	Begin Third Marking Period, Begin Second Semester
Mon.	Jan. 20	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, Schools and District Offices Closed
Mon.	Feb. 17	Presidents' Day/Teacher Non-Work Day, Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Thu.	Mar. 13	End of Third Marking Period
Fri.	Mar. 14	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
Mon.-Fri.	Mar. 17-21	Spring Break, Schools Closed/District Offices Open
Mon.	Mar. 24	Begin Fourth Marking Period
Mon.	May 26	Memorial Day Holiday, Schools and District Offices Closed
Wed.	May 28	End of Fourth Marking Period, Last Day of School
Thu.-Fri.	May 29-30	Post Planning

### Prioritized Severe Weather Make-Up Days

Priority	Date	Current Use
1	Oct. 25, 2024	Professional Day/Student Holiday
2	Nov. 25, 2024	Mon. of Thanksgiving Break
3	Nov. 26, 2024	Tue. of Thanksgiving Break
4	Nov. 27, 2024	Wed. of Thanksgiving Break
5	Feb. 17, 2025	Presidents' Day
6	Mar. 21, 2025	Fri. of Spring Break
7	Mar. 20, 2025	Thu. of Spring Break
8	Mar. 19, 2025	Wed. of Spring Break
9	Mar. 18, 2025	Tue. of Spring Break
10	Mar. 17, 2025	Mon. of Spring Break



## We Need You

to bring this newsletter to press

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# the SEA LINE



FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF & COMMUNITY OF SOUTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL



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