



**ASCENCION SOLORSANO MIDDLE SCHOOL
PARENT NEWSLETTER
April 2019**



There will be an Incoming 6th Grade Orientation on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the MPR (Multi-purpose Room). For current 5th grade students and families, put this date on your calendar to hear about ASMS, take a tour of the campus, ask questions and meet the administrative team at Solorsano Middle School. This is the next important step in your child's educational journey...middle school!

We had a **Code Red drill** on Thursday, February 28, with Officer Hollar and we continue to have monthly fire drills. We continue to stress the ***See something, Say something, Do something motto with students***. During one of our school-wide class meetings we plan on showing the ***Run, Hide, Defend video***. Depending on the emergency situation, students can run from a potential threat, hide in their classrooms or, if confronted with an intruder, defend with any items that are available. The administrative team is committed to providing a safe learning environment for students but school safety involves all of us! We are so much stronger, working together to keep our campus safe. An addition to our school safety is the **STOPit App** that was rolled out at our school-wide class meeting on Friday, February 8, 2019. STOPit is an online reporting tool designed to deter and mitigate bullying, cyber abuse, and other inappropriate behaviors consisting of an app and a back-end incident management system for school administrators. Our students will have access to the STOPit mobile app, which has two simple but powerful features. **Report** can be used by students to report incidents to school contacts anonymously. **Messenger** can be used to engage in anonymous two-way communication with school contacts. Both **Report** and **Messenger** empower students to stand up for themselves and for one another. Our goal with STOPit is to create safer, kinder, school communities both online and off.

State testing is coming toward the end of April into May! We will begin **8th grade state Science testing the week of April 22-26**. We will begin state **testing for English Language Arts and Math on Monday, April 29**. All students, 6-8, will be tested in Math and ELA with a performance task section and a multiple-choice section. The performance task asks students to apply what they have learned and use problem-solving and critical thinking skills. All tests will be taken on the computer. Your child's teacher will notify students and parents when they are scheduled to take the tests. As we begin our spring testing, make sure your child gets plenty of sleep and eats a good breakfast before coming to school. Being well rested and well fed can keep your child focused and alert.

Being in school every day means your child won't miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. **A child's attendance has a direct correlation with his/her academic success.**

Yearbooks are selling fast! The cost is \$55.00 for a full-color yearbook. Books will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

Promotion Requirements: An 8th grade student may participate in Promotion Activities if they pass each class with a D average for the year. The yearly average grade is comprised of 1st semester and 2nd semester grades in each of their classes, including Physical Education and electives. In addition, **any 8th grade student suspended in the 4th quarter will lose the privilege to attend the promotion dance and the Great America trip. Administration will determine if a suspended student can participate in the promotion ceremony. All 8th grade students need to be responsible for academics and behavior!** **The 8th grade Promotion Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 3:00 p.m. at Gilroy High School, Centennial Circle. Wednesday, June 5, will be a minimum day, with 12:00 noon dismissal, for middle school students.**

Please note that you are required to have picture identification when picking up your student. For safety reasons, **students will only be released to individuals listed on the Emergency Card.** All individuals listed on the Emergency Card will be asked to show valid identification prior to picking up a student.

If you have any questions and/or concerns, please give me a call at (669) 205-5000, or send me an email at maria.walker@gilroyunified.org.