



August 2021

THE SWAHS UPDATE

Vol 1

What's in this month's issue:

PAGE 1

*PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

PAGE 2

*UPCOMING EVENTS

*SCHEDULE UPDATE

*STUDENT SCHEDULES

PAGE 3

*SCHEDULE UPDATE

*NEW FACES AT AHS

*10-12 STUDENT ORIENTATION

*SCHOOL PORTRAITS

*YSB ON CAMPUS

PAGE 4

*FRP FORMS

*DEVICE PROTECTION PLANS

*DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION

DECLINE FORM

*SOWASHCO FALL 2021

PLANNING

PAGE 5 & 6

*BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY

UPDATE - 5 & 6

*SWAHS MISSION, VISION, &

CORE VALUES - 6

Principal's Message

Dear SWAHS Families:

It is with great anticipation that I write to you today as we continue preparations for the upcoming school year. Preparations though different than last year are still being completed with the same focus and detail which we hope will provide a smooth transition for all of our learners.

Open house is coming up on August 25th. As we plan for this event the AHS staff are designing segments to be delivered digitally as well as in person. Student advisors will be reaching out to their families in late August to schedule times to meet. In these meetings advisors will go through student grad plans, student schedules, go through your advisee's continual learning plan, answer questions you may have about the start of the school year, and provide you with a tour of our facility.

Linked are a [2021-2022 South Washington County Schools calendar](#), [School Supply List](#), and [Youth Service Bureau opt out form](#). The school supply list covers what your student will need to bring to school their first day.

Again we want to welcome you back and please call the school at 651-425-7000 or visit our website at swahs.sowashco.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nick Falde

Principal, South Washington Alternative High School

Schedule Update - Day Program

As we reviewed the previous school year and continued to look for ways to be more student centered our schedule was a point of emphasis when speaking with students and staff. For the upcoming school year we have designed our day program schedule to allow for more flexibility for students. Morning hours will have consistent course offerings, where afternoons will be a combination of lab and cross curricular opportunities. Based on a student's credit requirements and graduation plan, there may be opportunities for a first release for some students. Students should work with their advisor to determine if this is a possibility.

Monday/Wednesday/Friday

Student Check - in	8:30 - 8:45
1st Hour	8:45 - 10:00
2nd Hour	10:05 - 11:05
3rd Hour	11:25 - 12:40
Lunch. 12:45 - 1:05	
*First Release 1:05	
*Bus Leaves 1:10	
4th Hour	1:10 - 2:00
5th Hour	2:05 - 3:00
*Bus Leaves 2:45	
Virtual Student Check - in	3:00 - 3:15

Tuesday / Thursday

Student Check - in	8:30 - 8:45
1st Hour	8:45 - 9:50
2nd Hour	9:55 - 11:00
Advisory.....	11:05 - 11:30
3rd Hour	11:35 - 12:40
Lunch. 12:45 - 1:05	
*First Release 1:05	
*Bus Leaves 1:10	
4th Hour	1:10 - 2:00
5th Hour	2:05 - 3:00
*Bus Leaves 2:45	
Virtual Student Check - in	3:00 - 3:15

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUG 19 - STAFF ADVISORY DAY

AUG 23-25 - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AUG 25 - OPEN HOUSE (4:30 - 6:00)

SEPT 1 - FIRST DAY FOR 10-12 GRADERS

SEPT 3 - NO SCHOOL

SEPT 6 - NO SCHOOL (LABOR DAY)

SWAHS CALENDAR LINK - SWAHS.SOWASHCO.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/CALENDAR

Student Schedules

Student schedules will be available in parent portal on August 25th. If you have questions or concerns about your schedule please reach out to your advisor. Schedules will be printed and available for new students to AHS on August 31st and for returning students on September 1st. Changes to your schedule must be made within the first three days of school starting.

Schedule Update - Achievement Lab

Much like our day program we were looking for ways to create flexibility for our students and families. For the 21/22 SY, the Achievement Lab will be a hybrid program with some instruction being completed in the lab with our achievement lab teacher and some instruction being completed independently at home. Within this program students will have the option of a Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday schedule, with the option of coming in from 8-11 or from 12-3 on their specific assigned days. Friday's will be at a distance with check in times scheduled with the achievement lab teacher. For more information about the achievement lab please contact our achievement lab teacher, Matt Casper at 651-425-7034 or our school counselor, Kate Jenkins at 651-425-7004

New Faces at AHS

South Washington Alternative High School would like to welcome a few new faces to our program this school year. Jordan Jobe comes to us from Park High School where she served on their social studies team and led their credit recovery initiative. Jordan takes over for Chad Forde who accepted a position outside of the district. Through a partnership with Great Rivers Adult Consortium, Zach Devine joins us as our new Adult and Alternative Education Coordinator. Zach will be helping support AHS students two afternoons a week in the areas of career and college readiness, community engagement, and supporting the AHS main office. We are excited to have both Jordan and Zach joining us this upcoming school year.

YSB on Campus

Youth Service Bureau (YSB) is again partnering with SWAHS this upcoming school year to provide services to our students in the areas of mental health therapy and chemical health counseling at no cost to our students and families. If you do not want your student to have the opportunity to take part in this opportunity please complete the linked [opt out form](#) and return it to Patty Freeman in the main office

10-12 New Student Orientation

South Washington Alternative High School would like to invite our students who are new to AHS and our students who were in our Virtual Learning Academy during the 2020-21 school year to attend an optional student welcome and orientation on **Tuesday, August 31, 2021 from 1:30 - 2:30 pm.**

Our new student orientation is an opportunity for new students to meet our office leadership team, staff, and other new students. We will provide you with a tour of our campus, your schedule, any technology you may need on the first day, and an opportunity to connect with your advisor and scheduled teachers. We look forward to meeting you and if you have any questions about this event, please contact our main office at 651-425-7000

School Portraits

School portraits are scheduled for the morning of September 23rd. Ordering materials will be provided to students during their advisory or can be picked up in the main office during school hours.

Free and Reduced Price Lunch Forms

The Application for Educational Benefits will be available at our Open House and can be found on the South Washington County Schools website underneath the heading [Nutrition Services](#). We ask that all families review the application and complete all sections that apply and return it to Patty Freeman our Administrative Specialist for processing. Many of the services provided at SWAHS are positively impacted through the funds received by the completion of these forms. Thank you for your consideration in completing this form.

Device Protection Plans

SoWashCo Schools is offering families the option of purchasing a device protection plan to protect district-issued devices from accidental damage from fire, flood, natural disasters, or power surges; and theft (with a filed police report).

The cost for the optional plan is \$20 annually per device. Families who qualify for federal educational benefits, such as [free and reduced-price meals](#), will also be eligible for reduced pricing (\$10 annually per device) or free coverage. Families can sign up and pay for the device protection plan through the SmartSchoolK12 website.

- [Learn more about the device protection plan](#)
- [Instructions for paying fees through SmartSchoolK12](#)

District Transportation Decline Form

To help South Washington County Schools' Transportation Department, create efficient school bus routes, students/families that will NOT need or use school bus transportation for this school year (2021-2022) are asked to complete a form.

If a student(s) will NOT be using school bus transportation this coming school 2021-2022 year (morning, afternoon or both), we are asking you to complete the form in the link below.

Students and families eligible for transportation who decline bus service may re-establish bus service any time during the school year by contacting the Transportation Office at (651) 425-5303. A change in bus service may take 5-7 days to implement.

Again, this form is for students that are confident no district transportation is needed to and from school for school year 21-22. Students not using the bus for short durations (athletic seasons, vacation etc) do NOT need to complete the form.

[Request to decline transportation form](#)

If you have any questions, please contact us at transportation@sowashco.org or 651-425-5303. Thank you for your cooperation.

South Washington County Schools Fall 2021 Planning

Detailed information related to the opening of schools in South Washington County can be found on the [South Washington County Schools Fall 2021 webpage](#). This page provides the most up to date information on health and safety protocols and other specific family resources.

Back-to-School Family Update

On Tuesday, July 6 SoWashCo Schools will begin a campaign asking families to update their household contact information, complete online forms and more for the 2021-22 school year through their Campus Parent Portal accounts. **We are asking families to complete this update by Wednesday, Aug. 18.**

One parent or guardian in a **primary household** can log in through Campus Parent Portal to:

- Review and update emergency contact information
- Complete required school and district annual forms, including media opt-out, medications in school, field trip permissions and more
- Update parent/guardian contact information for district and school communications
- Update home, alternative or daycare addresses to ensure your child receives school bus transportation on the first day of school

A primary household is the address in which the student primarily lives.

Parents or guardians in a **secondary household** can log in through Campus Parent Portal to:

- Review and update emergency contact information
- Update parent/guardian contact information for district and school communications

A secondary household is the address in which the student lives part of the time but, it is not their primary household address.

Setting up parent/guardian accounts:

Parents/guardians will need to log in to **Campus Parent Portal** with their new username and password which will be emailed to them on Tuesday, July 6. Once logged in, they may change their password to something they'll remember. Parents/guardians will use this information to log into Campus Parent Portal through the duration of their child's enrollment in SoWashCo Schools.

Please note: The new username and password will replace any previously used usernames or passwords parents/guardians have used to access Campus Parent Portal in the past.

How to help parents/guardians:

- Parent/guardians must open Campus Parent Portal
 - It is recommended they use a computer, laptop or tablet to complete the update instead of a smartphone
 - Every SoWashCo School and the District Service Center, Cottage Grove, MN 55016, will have tablets available in the main office for parents to complete the update.
- Parents will need to log in with their new username and password.
 - Parents may change their password to something they will remember.
- Once logged in, parents/guardians will need to click on the menu button and select "More."
- On the "More" page scroll to the bottom and select "Online Registration."
 - Please note: This process will not make any enrollment changes for their child.
- Parents/guardians can begin updating information for each child in their household. The process will take approximately 5-20 minutes.

[View video instructions](#)

Back-to-School Family Update (cont'd)

Multilingual Family Outreach

To help better serve our multilingual families, SoWashCo Schools will hire multilingual staff to help reach out to families who have identified a preference for translation or interpretation services so they can complete the Back-to-School Update process.

Staff will reach out to multilingual families between July 13 and Aug. 12. If you have families that need translation assistance or access to a device to complete this process, please contact the Department of Student Information at 651-425-6328.

If parents or guardians have questions or need assistance with the Back-to-School Family Update process, please have them email enroll@sowashco.org or call 651-425-6328.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this update. These updates will allow us to serve you and your student(s) more effectively.

SWAHS Mission, Vision, and Core Values

At South Washington Alternative High School our *mission or purpose* is to ensure equity in learning for all students as they define and adapt their futures.

Our *vision or intent* is to empower our students to see themselves in their futures.

At South Washington Alternative High School we believe that everyone is here to learn and grow. In order to provide an opportunity where all can learn and excel, the following *CORE values* define what we do as a learning community.

1. **Respect**: Honor our similarities and differences in our assumptions, inquiries, words, and actions
2. **Integrity**: Do the right thing even when no one is watching
3. **Effort**: Do your best, effort is valued and the work you do in your classes will lead to future accomplishments
4. **Resilience**: Be able to bounce back from challenges and disappointments with confidence and hope
5. **Excellence**: Strive for the/our best in all we do with high expectations for all