



October 2021

# THE SWAHS UPDATE

Vol 3

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## Principal's Message

Dear SWAHS Families:

Welcome to October and college knowledge month at South Washington Alternative High School. Throughout this month we have a defined focus on college and career readiness. There will be speakers coming in to talk about the FAFSA, virtual and in person tours of campuses, and trivia throughout the month that relates to college and career readiness. There is more information throughout this newsletter regarding these opportunities for our students.

October 12th is the end of term 1 at SWAHS and a great opportunity for students to start fresh as they transition to a new set of classes. If students have questions about their new schedule or would like a hard copy printed out, have them stop and see Patty or April in the main office. If they have questions about their classes in general reach out to Kate our counselor as she is the contact for all schedule changes.

Again we want to thank you for your support of South Washington Alternative High School and please call the school at 651-425-7000 or visit our website at [swahs.sowashco.org](http://swahs.sowashco.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nick Falde

Principal, South Washington Alternative High School

# College Knowledge Month

October is College Knowledge Month in the state of MN. The goal of this month is to provide all students with the preparation, opportunity and support needed to apply to college. Throughout the next few weeks, we will be offering both on campus and virtual college visit opportunities, financial aid Q & A, support with completing college applications and general information regarding post-secondary options. If you have any questions or would like additional information, feel free to reach to our school counselor, Kate, at [kjenkins@sowashco.org](mailto:kjenkins@sowashco.org).

## Building Trades Informational Session

Earlier this week, Don Mullin, the Executive Secretary for the St. Paul Building Trades Council, spoke to approximately 20 SWAHS students about opportunities in the building trades in and around the Twin Cities. Topics covered included the differences in the building trades, the benefits of a union job, the steps to applying for an apprenticeship, as well as clarifying the timeline that seniors should be following if the goal is to start an apprenticeship right after high school. Don is a wealth of knowledge regarding the building trades and is a great resource for students at SWAHS to have if joining a trades union is in his/her/their future.

## Free Senior Portraits

As a service to our seniors our office administrative assistant team is offering the opportunity for students to have a high definition digital picture taken for use in school yearbooks, grad invites, and personal use. For more information about this service please call April in our main office at 651-425-7000

### UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- OCT 12 - END OF TERM 1
- OCT 13 - START OF TERM 2
- OCT 21 & 22 - NO SCHOOL
- OCT 28 - PICTURE RE-TAKE DAY
- NOV 2 - NO SCHOOL
- NOV 4 - TERM 2 CONFERENCES (4:00 - 6:15)

SWAHS CALENDAR LINK - [SWAHS.SOWASHCO.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/CALENDAR](https://SWAHS.SOWASHCO.ORG/GET-INVOLVED/CALENDAR)



# Levy for Learning

Join district leaders on Monday Oct 11th at 6:30 p.m. for the virtual information session about the two levy questions on the Nov. 2 ballot. If approved by voters, increased school funding will allow us to focus on financial stability and technology for our kids. Learn more at <https://www.sowashco.org/vote2021#infosessions>.

## SWAHS Student Clubs and Groups

As a way to build community across SWAHS, we will be starting student clubs and groups that will meet twice a month during advisory or during 5th period lab classes. Clubs and groups were voted on by the student body, reviewed by the student ambassador group, and then presented to staff members for feedback. As we continue to plan, we are looking at late October as a starting timeframe for these opportunities. Students will have the option to sign up for a club or group of interest and adjust if they so desire within the first two meetings. On these days students will always have the opportunity to take part in a lab class, if they do not want to take part in the clubs and/or groups.

# Free Vault COVID - 29 Testing Kits

Students can get a Free Vault Covid-19 Saliva Test Kit from the school health office. Only one test can be sent home at a time, and it needs to be returned the week you request it.

How Vault COVID-19 Testing Works:

- Pick up a Vault COVID-19 test at no cost from the school health office
- Create a Vault account with a username and password
- Complete the COVID-19 test at home with help from Vault test supervisors over Zoom
- Students under 18 will need a parent or legal guardian present at the time of the test to provide consent
- The test needs to be done with Zoom on Wednesday night or Thursday morning
- Seal the sample tube and place it in the biohazard bag
- Bring completed and sealed tests to the school's health office before 1pm on designated collection days
- Staff at school cannot help students administer the test. The test must be completed and sealed prior to bringing it into a school building

Upcoming Vault COVID-19 Test Collection Days:

- Thursday, Sept. 30
- Thursday, Oct. 7
- Thursday, Oct. 14

The test kits from the school are only for student use and must be sent in on the designated Thursdays. You can't mail these back on a different day.

If you would like free family Covid-19 Test at Home kits from the Minnesota Department of Health, you can request them to be sent directly to your house and you drop completed tests off at a UPS location. These kits are turned in on your own and can't be accepted by the school. COVID-19 Test at Home. \* They look the same but are coded differently so be careful not to mix them up.

If you have any questions, please call the health office at 651-425-7001