



Fall 2021

Visit us on the web: sms.parklandsd.org

Dear Parent(s) & Guardian(s),

It's hard to believe that we are already in October and have started the 2nd marking period in the school year. I would like to take a moment to thank you for all of your efforts in helping your child return to school full time as we here at Springhouse strive to continue our tradition of excellence in all facets of their education. It has been very rewarding to see the excitement that our students have had over the last two months in their classes, in the hallways with friends, and throughout the programs we have been able to provide for them both during and after school hours.

On **Friday, September 24**, we were able to hold the first ever SMS Fall Social, which took place outdoors at the PHS Turf Soccer Field. The event was very well attended, with over 500 of our students participating in various activities throughout the evening. It was great to see the students have the chance to hang out with friends and I hope that they enjoyed their experience in what very well could become a new tradition in our school for the years to come, even when inside dances return.

On **Friday, October 8**, we held our annual Anti-Bullying Kickoff for our students. We were thrilled to have Joey Fay, a Parkland alum and member of the Travis Manion Foundation speak to our students about the importance of character, leadership, and respect for others as he delivered the important message of the foundation, "If not me, then who?" to our school. In addition, students participated in team building activities and signed an anti-bullying pledge, which was a great way to begin this year's efforts to stop bullying in our school. We'll continue with our anti-bullying message, "Take a Stand, United as One" throughout the school year in our school community.

There are a few important details that I want to make you aware of:

- First marking period report cards were published in HAC on **Thursday, October 21** and are currently available for you to view
- The start of Winter Sports begins on **Friday, November 19**. Please see the "Athletic News" page for more information
- Band, Chorus, and Orchestra classes have started in the second marking period and students are very excited to perform at their upcoming Winter Concerts.
- Congratulations to all of our Springhouse Fall Sports participants for their tremendous seasons!
- Thank you to our SMS Partnership (SMSP) for all of your efforts to help our students this school year. For information on how to become a part of SMSP, please see the info included in this newsletter.

In the pages that follow, you will find important information about what is going on at Springhouse Middle School. Please know that we are making every effort to provide students with all of the activities and experiences they would get under more normal circumstances. These experiences might look a little different than in years past, however I have always believed that it is extremely important for students to receive a well-rounded education, so that they can become successful members of our community. I sincerely appreciate all of your support as we navigate through these times together. As I said in my beginning of the year message, this is a time that we can work together to unite our community, and with your help, I am confident that we can rise to that challenge, knowing that brighter skies are on the horizon.

Sincerely,

Jude Sandt, Principal

Fall Student Activities



RED RIBBON WEEK 2021/DRESS UP DAYS

MONDAY 10/25— DRUG FREE LOOKS BRIGHT! Wear your brightest or tie dye colors

TUESDAY 10/26— HAPPY TO BE DRUG FREE! Wear your funniest/favorite shirt

WEDNESDAY 10/27— “RED”DY TO BE DRUG FREE. Wear lots of RED!

THURSDAY 10/28— DRUG FREE IS DREAMY! Wear your pajamas!

FRIDAY 10/29— SAY “BOO” TO DRUGS! Wear Halloween colors/shirts (No costumes allowed)

***Please remember that dress code applies to all Red Ribbon Week dress up days**

From the **SMS Newspaper**: If you're looking for a way to get involved in school then come join the newspaper staff. We recently met on **Wednesday October 20** during Timberwolf Time in A165 to assign roles for our first issue. Anyone is welcome to join the newspaper staff. If you would like to join the staff, have any questions, or did not attend the first meeting please see Mrs. Derrick in A165

The **What's So Cool About Manufacturing Club** is looking for students interested in video production to create this year's submission on Stanley Black and Decker. If you are a student interested in video production, please see Mr. Abrams in room A141 this week for an application.

All 6th grade students will be attending a presentation for the **Young Scientist Science Fair (YSSF)** on **Thursday, October 28** in the SMS Auditorium during Period 1. This after school program is run by Parkland High School students for our 6th graders to give them experience and practice in preparing for Science Fair participation, beginning in 7th grade. Information to register for this program will be distributed to 6th graders at the presentation on **October 28**.

All SMS students will be virtually viewing our in-school performance of the **SMS Play**, “All I Really Need to Know I Learned from Being a Zombie” on **Friday, October 29**. The play is also open to the public and more information can be found about showtimes and dates in the upcoming pages of the newsletter.

Club/Student Activity Applications are currently being accepted in the main office through **January 1, 2022**. If any student is interested in starting a new club or student activity, please see Dr. Sandt in the SMS main office for the information on how to apply.

Athletic News



Parkland will hold **free winter sports physicals** on **Saturday, October 30** in the high school auxiliary gym. Please sign up on the parkland website: <https://www.parklandsd.org/departments/athletics>

PIAA first day of Winter Sports Tryouts will be **Friday, November 19**. Please listen to announcements in school for location and time of your sports tryouts.

ATTENTION 7th and 8th grade girls interested in trying out for the **SMS Girls Basketball Team**: Please join the Parkland Middle School Girls Basketball Schoology Course. The access code for the course is: C3MD-R4PN-ZG5P2. Once you are in the course, please see the embedded calendar for Open Gym dates beginning in early November. More info will be posted under Updates once it becomes available. Girls Basketball held a Parent & Player Meeting for anyone interested in trying out for the SMS Girls Basketball team this year on **Wednesday, October 20th** at 8:00pm in the PHS Main Gym. All interested players and parent(s) should plan to attend. If you missed the meeting, please join the Schoology course and check the Updates section frequently.

CONGRATULATIONS to the **Parkland Middle School Cross Country Team** on a successful Fall season. We had 70 runners on our combined team representing SMS and OMS. Our boys team finished the season undefeated in our regular league season. The Boys finished first at the centaur Invitational hosted by DeSales University. They also took the top spot at the Patriot Invitational hosted by Freedom High School. Consistently among the top 3 runners from SMS were: Marcelo Castilla Castano, Ryan Bender and Simon Nimmo. The Girls team finished the season with only one loss to Eyer MS. The Girls finished 2nd at the Centaur Invitational at DeSales. The top 3 runners on the SMS Girls team were: Elayna Kocher, Shri Desai and Libby Grice. **CONGRATS ON A GREAT SEASON!**

CONGRATULATIONS to the **SMS Parkland Middle School Girls Volleyball Team** who had an amazing season this year finishing with an 8-7 record! Best of luck to our 8th graders as they move up to the High School.



Springhouse Middle School Band

This fall, the **SMS Band** members have been back in action in the classroom thanks to the Parkland School District and their provision of Instrumental performance masks and bell coverings for our winds and brass instruments. Special thanks go out to Mr. Mark Stutz, our director of Visual and Performing Arts for making this happen for our students! All of the band students have been excited to be back to playing in a normal environment inside of the band room for their weekly music lessons with Mr. Bauer, and I know we've all been craving a bit of "normal" these days, so this has really helped our spirits to be back to making live music again inside of our band room at SMS! October 15th brought the start of the 2nd Marking Period, and with that, daily Band classes began and students began preparing for their Winter Band Concert which will be held on **December 2nd** at 7:00 PM. We look forward to hopefully having our concerts with a live audience this year, but if we aren't able to do so, we do have a "Plan B" in place so that we will still be able to share our music with everyone!

The **SMS Jazz Band** has also been working diligently after school on Wednesdays each week since late September to prepare for their Winter concert. This year, we are bringing back the "Honors Ensemble Concert," which is a combination of Jazz Band, Honors Orchestra and Chorale. We always enjoy performing at home in our beautiful auditorium here at Springhouse, and it's even better to be able to enjoy the wonderful tones of the Honors Orchestra and spirited song of the Chorale, so we are really looking forward to this event on **December 16th** at 7:00 PM. We hope to see you there!

Springhouse Middle School Orchestra

It has been an exciting and positive Fall season in the **Orchestra Ensembles!** Mrs. Santanello, the new Orchestra Director, is excited to be joining the Parkland music team. We are grateful to have the experience of making music as a community again! It has been a long time since music students have performed in large ensembles. In Marking Period 1, we had successful weekly lessons and now in Marking Period 2 we are enjoying orchestra class everyday! We are in the process of preparing for our Orchestra Holiday Concert on **Friday, December 3, 2021** at 7:00 PM in the Parkland High School auditorium. Join us to hear some of your holiday and winter favorites!

Honors Orchestra is hard at work as well, rehearsing every Tuesday after school. Honors Orchestra will perform in the Orchestra Holiday Concert on December 3, 2021 and alongside the Jazz Band and Chorale in the Honors Ensemble Concert here at SMS on **December 16** at 7:00 PM.

If you are interested in learning a string instrument and being a part of orchestra, you can join us for Marking Period 3 and 4 lessons. Message Mrs. Santanello on Schoology for more information.

Springhouse Middle School Chorus

The over 500 members of the **SMS Chorus** have been enjoying singing together since marking period 2 started on October 15. With masking and social distancing, the PSD health and safety plan allows for singing this year, and it is great to be making music in our classroom ensembles after 18 months of pandemic chorus. We are looking forward to presenting our winter concert at PHS on **Wednesday, December 1**.

Mrs. Silver would like to thank the Parkland Education Foundation for providing the **General Music** classroom with five additional keyboards for our piano lab through their annual grant program. The 8th grade students have been enjoying this “hands-on” portion of the general music curriculum.

SMS Spring Musical

Before you know it, we will be holding auditions for our annual **Spring Musical**. Watch for information about joining the cast and crew on morning announcements in December.

SMS Honors Music Ensembles

The **Honors Ensembles** auditioned in September and have been rehearsing each week after school. Come out to hear the smooth sounds of the Jazz Band, the wonderful tones of the Honors Orchestra, and the spirited songs of the Chorale in the return of the SMS Honors Ensemble Concert, which will be held in our auditorium on **Thursday, December 16**. We hope you can join us to hear the best of the Springhouse music program!

SMS Theatrics Unlimited Programs: SMS Fall Play

The theater department is pleased to present it's first live production since March 2020! **“All I Really Need to Know I Learned From Being a Zombie”** will open to a public audience on **Thursday, October 28th** at 7PM. Additional performances will be staged on **Saturday, October 30th** at 2 PM and **Sunday October 31st** at 2 PM. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$7 and we ask that all audience members wear a mask. The production is approximately one hour in length and looks at a variety of life's lessons—told by the walking dead! Who knew that zombies held the key to life's challenges?!?!



Counseling Corner

The Importance of Routine

A good routine can play a huge factor in a middle school student's success. By establishing a routine early in the school year, you can potentially avoid frustration and stress for both you and your child. A dedicated morning routine for waking up, getting dressed and getting out the door will ensure that your student is to school on time and ready to learn. This can also help prevent bathroom bottlenecks, kitchen chaos and everyone leaving the house feeling rushed and agitated.

An after-school routine is equally important. For so many households, the evenings are notorious for being a tornado of activity. Rehearsals and practices must to be attended, dinner needs to be made, eaten and cleaned up and homework has to get done. An established routine is key to getting everything completed and helping the family maintain their sanity. Arrange a daily time that students need to devote to their schoolwork to ensure that it gets done and not forgotten about. This will also allow your child to fully focus on their extracurricular activities and not carry stress over into the next day.

Don't forget about a routine of checking Home Access Center (HAC) and Schoology with your child. Keeping up to date on grades and assignments will help prevent any surprises at the end of the marking period.

Information from the Nurse's Office

Hello Springhouse Families!

Just a reminder to turn in your child's physical exam if they are currently in 6th grade and be sure to turn in your child's most recent dental exam if your child is in 7th grade. All forms are available on the district site. Forms were sent home with your child at the end of last school year or given upon registration if they are a new student.

Please contact the Nurse's office with any questions. Be Well!

Sara Troutman RN, BSN, CSN MAEd

Certified School Nurse

610-351-5700/610-351-5748 (fax)



Springhouse Middle School Partnership (SMSP)

WHAT IS SMSP?

The Springhouse Middle School Partnership (SMSP) - often just called "the Partnership" - is the school's parent teacher organization.

The Partnership plays a vital role in supporting school needs including providing grant monies for author visits; field trips; scholarships to alumni seniors; prizes for the ARP auction and school-wide treats for teachers and students. We also provide

volunteers to serve at special events like Game Night, the 8th grade celebration, and field days.

Additionally, volunteers run the fall and spring book fairs and assist teachers with photocopy needs.



3 EASY WAYS TO BENEFIT THE SMS PARTNERSHIP AT NO COST!

1. **Smile.Amazon.com:** Go to Smile.Amazon.com and designate Springhouse Middle School as your beneficiary charity.



2. **Box Tops for Education:** Download the app and select Springhouse Middle School as your beneficiary school and start scanning your receipts.



3. **Weis for School:** Scan the bar code (below) associated with Springhouse Middle School once per year at Weis Markets to start earning money for SMS!



Receive important updates!
Join @SMSP21 on the Remind App (iOS and Android)



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?
PLEASE JOIN US!

SMSP MEETS AT 9AM
ON THE FIRST TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Money Raised to Date

Walkabout:
\$525

SaveAround Coupon Books:
\$1,615.50

Book Fair:
\$1,800 cash
plus \$1,133 in books
for the school

Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Bars:
\$427

Total Fundraising: \$4,367.50

THANK YOU!

SIGNATURE PROJECT

In light of current events, the school administration sees value in adding outdoor classroom space. Studies have shown that engaging outside promotes creativity and problem-solving skills. It has also helped alleviate behavioral problems, reduce symptoms of ADHD, and helped improve educational outcomes.

Springhouse Middle School Partnership has committed \$20,000 of its own funds towards this signature project and also to secure remaining funds to complete the outdoor space with furnishings. Individuals and businesses are able to contribute funds to purchase seating and tables. All sponsors will be recognized for their generosity. Contact Iris Epstein at (610) 390-4185 to see how you can help the Partnership reach our goal.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 11/2: SMSP Meeting (9AM)
- 11/2: School Beautification Fundraiser Reveal
- 11/2: Holiday Spirit Wear Kick-Off
- 11/23-24: Early Dismissal (1PM)
- 11/25-29: School Closed
- Happy Thanksgiving!**
- 12/1: Chorus Winter Concert
- 12/2: Band Winter Concert
- 12/3: Orchestra Winter Concert
- 12/7: SMSP Meeting (9AM)
- 12/16: Honors Ensemble Concert
- 12/21: Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- 12/24: Winter Break Starts
- Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!**
- 1/4: SMSP Meeting (9AM)

Announcements

ABSENCES

To report your child off from school you can call our SMS Attendance Hotline at: **610-351-5900 Ext. 66711** or you can Email the attendance to:
SMSattendance@parklandsd.org

EMERGENCY PERMITS

If your child has an appointment (doctor, dentist, etc.) scheduled during school hours, or if an extended period of absence is anticipated (educational trips, vacation, etc.) the student must present a written request or an Emergency Permit form from a parent or guardian to the attendance office for approval at least one (1) day in advance of that absence.

Students are to present the Emergency Permit form to all teachers whose classes they will miss during the planned absence in order that their team of teachers may be notified of the impending absence and make advanced assignments. The Emergency Permit is to be returned to the Attendance office prior to the actual date of absence.

Please note: Emergency Permits are available in the Main office. They are also on our SMS website. On the website you would click on the **About** then click on **General information**. The permits are on the right side. You can download the permit, fill it out, and send it to: SMSattendance@parklandsd.org

OOPS, LEFT SOMETHING BEHIND AT HOME?

If your student has left something behind at home in the rush to get to school and someone will be dropping it off, please follow the procedure below. We will notify the student to come to the office for the forgotten item.

- Please have the item clearly marked with the student's name and grade
- Ring the outside buzzer at the main office entrance and state you are dropping off an item for your child.
- The 1st outside door will be unlocked so you may enter the vestibule area
- Place the item on or near the book shelf in the vestibule area

Student Assistance Program

What is it?

Middle School can be a great experience. However, it is also a time when so many things in your life are changing. At times you may feel confused, scared, alone, and overwhelmed.

You are not alone. These feelings are normal for all teenagers. How you choose to deal with these feelings can have a great impact on your life.

All of us are aware of the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol. Many of you will find yourselves in situations in which you feel pressure from friends and others to experiment with drugs and alcohol. Some of you will make a healthy choice and say no. However, saying no may be one of the most difficult things you do, especially if you have not found a healthy way to deal with your feelings and stress. For those of you that did not say no, there is help.

The student assistance program is there to help anyone you know who is experiencing problems with drugs, alcohol, or other issues.

Student Assistance Program Web Site

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/sap-pbis/SAP/Pages/default.aspx>

Safe and Drug Free Schools Web Page

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/index.html>



WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER
#OURBESTSMS