

The Sussex Star

March 18, 2022

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The Superintendent's Roundtable Award is given annually to an 8th grade student from Sussex Middle School. This is a highly prestigious award that recognizes a student who performs at high levels both in and out of the classroom. This individual possesses leadership qualities in many aspects of her life and serves as a role model for many of her peers here at SMS.

Please join the Sussex Middle School in congratulating Kaitlyn Simionidis as the 2021 - 2022 Superintendent's Roundtable recipient.

Shane Schwarz
Principal

Free Breakfast & Lunch



In order to ensure safe nutritious meals are available to children, the USDA has approved free breakfast and lunch for ALL children enrolled in the Sussex-Wantage Regional School District for a limited time period.

Calendar



3/24-BOE meeting @ SMS @ 7 p.m. Note date change.
4/1-End of MP 3. Note date change.
4/13-Report cards for MP 3 posted in Realtime Parent Portal @ 4 p.m.
4/14-Early Dismissal. Professional Development.
4/15-4/24-School Closed. Spring Break.

Parent Drop Off Solar Panel Lot



The safety of our students and staff is our highest priority. If you drive your student to school, please drop off your student in the solar panel parking lot between 8:15 a.m. and 8:35 a.m. Please do not utilize the main parking lot to drop off your student during the above timeframe as it creates potentially hazardous conditions both for our students and our bus drivers.

Testing



If your child has a pending Covid-19 test, please make the school nurse aware. Additionally, please keep your child home until the pending test results are finalized.

8th Grade Parents



Graduation gown payments **were** due to the middle school by Friday, December 17. Checks or money orders in the amount of \$20 should be made payable to the Sussex Middle School and dropped off at the Main Office.

Parent Portal

The district has moved to **Realtime Notification** as its primary means of communication for school closings, emergencies and general notifications. Parents/Guardians will need to update their contact information on the parent portal. Should you have any issue logging into your parent portal account, please email your child's school secretaries for assistance.



Calling all Parents!

The Center for Prevention and Counseling's School Health Team is excited to invite all parents throughout the communities you serve to the 2022 Parents as Champions Training! The Center has provided this unique and engaging training to parents across Sussex, Warren, Essex, Bergen, Passaic, Morris, and Hudson county for over six years. This year, they are bringing it right to you via zoom! **This four-session** training will teach parents how a school system works and empower them to be a positive voice amongst their child's school community. Each parent who completes all four sessions will receive a **\$125 stipend** and the opportunity to apply for a **\$1,000 grant** to aid in implementing the project they create during the course. Some projects that have been successfully implemented in the past are; school gardens, outdoor classrooms, pet therapy programs, and staff wellness initiatives, to name a few. [Click here to register for this exciting opportunity today!](#)

"Sister to Sister" Prom Shop

Free new and gently used prom dresses, shoes, wraps, purses and accessories are available at Project Self Sufficiency. 127 Mill Street, Newton, NJ. Inquiries can be made at 973-940-3500 or at www.projectselfsufficiency.org.

Walkers

All walkers at Sussex Middle School should utilize the following walking route: Newton Ave to Main Street. There are crossing guards positioned at the intersection of Newton Ave and 23 as well as the intersection of Route 23 and Route 284.

Board of Education Meeting



Our Board of Education will hold a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on **March 24th** at Sussex Middle School. Please note the change of date. *Everyone is welcome!*



Great news! Marking period 3 of the Achievement Academy, which features new course offerings, will begin on Monday, January 31st! Exciting opportunities including daily academic support, open gym, basketball skills, strategic board games, advanced volleyball skills, Let's Go to Japan in a Classroom, resiliency training, SMS social skills and CPR courses will be available daily beginning on Monday, January 31st. Course descriptions, a schedule, and a permission slip for marking period 3 are available in the auditorium and cafeteria at Sussex Middle School. Can't wait to see you there.

Nurse's Corner



As a reminder, the nurse must have a current sports physical for the 2021-2022 school year on file in the health office in order for your child to participate in any extracurricular sports.

Please ensure that your child has a *reusable* water bottle with them. This will assist with daily operations at the water stations as well as in the nurse's office.

Please be aware that as of Tuesday, January 18th, we made a change to our isolation and quarantine timeframes. In accordance with updated New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) recommendations, we will be reducing our quarantine time frame from ten days down to five days.

Individuals who need to quarantine will now be able to return on day six **if they do not have symptoms of illness**. If you have already been placed into a ten day quarantine, you can now return on day six if you do not have symptoms of illness. If symptoms persist (fever or if other symptoms have not resolved), continue to isolate until fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms have resolved.

More information about the NJDOH recommendations can be found using the following link:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/to pics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf

High Point Softball Youth Clinic 2022



High Point Regional High School Softball Team will be holding a two day youth clinic. The goal of the clinic is to help young prospects improve their skills and get ready for the spring season. 100% of the proceeds from the clinic go towards the High Point Softball program. Questions or concerns, please email Coach Seck @ Jseck@hpregonal.org.



We are excited to announce that we now offer a new online payment system called PaySchools Central. PaySchools Central provides all parents in our district with an easy way to manage lunch and breakfast accounts. This can all be done in the convenience of your own home through an easy-to-use online portal: www.payschoolscentral.com Or while on the go with a convenient mobile app. You will need to register at the link above. Additional information can be found on our school website in the department section under the food service tab or in the parent portal. If you need help along the way, please contact PaySchools Central at 1-877-393-6628 or email them at: psc_help@payschools.com.

Parking At SMS



When parking in the middle school parking lot, please utilize the parking spaces provided and adhere to New Jersey regulation 39 4-138 regarding the fire lane.

As a reminder, currently the school day begins at 8:40 a.m. and ends at 3:29 p.m. Students walking to school are asked to arrive no earlier than 8:15 a.m. and are to report to the auditorium upon their arrival. Students who are dropped off by a parent/guardian should be dropped off at the doors in the solar panel parking lot on Loomis Avenue between 8:15 a.m. and 8:35 a.m. Please refrain from utilizing the main entrance parking lot to drop your child off. Thank you for your assistance in keeping our students and staff members safe.



The SWPTO is offering their Gertrude Hawk Chocolates fundraiser this year as a virtual online sale beginning now! Please visit <https://fundraising.gertrudehawkchocolates.com/> to add a seller or to place an order using our Organization Code 119604. Orders can be placed through April 3. Thank you for your support!

Absentee Line



If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please call the absentee line at 973-875-4138 option 1 and leave the reason for your child's absence.

