

# The Sussex Star

October 1, 2021

Please visit us on facebook @  
<https://www.facebook.com/swregional/>



Please note that our school nurses are going through many masks in their offices. Please provide your child with an extra mask in their book bag should the one that they are wearing break. Thank you for helping to keep our students and staff safe!

**Week of Respect** will be held October 4th-8th. Activities are as follows:

**Monday**-Blue Shirt Day

**Tuesday**-Wear Clothing with a number on it

**Wednesday**-Mismatch Day

**Thursday**-Red, White and Blue Day

**Friday**-Super Hero Day



**10/4-10/8**-Week of Respect

**10/4-11/10**-SMS Achievement Academy (more details on page 3)

**10/8**-School Pictures @ SMS

**10/14**-Back to School Night @ SMS @ 7:00 p.m. \*Basic Skills Meeting @6:45

**10/28**-BOE Meeting @ SMS @ 7:00 p.m.



Back to School Night for Sussex Middle School will be on Thursday, October 14th at 7:00 p.m. This year, Back to School Night will have a few changes due to Covid-19. Please note that if you have any symptoms of illness, we ask that you do not attend. Additionally, we ask that whenever possible, only one parent/guardian attend Back to School Night this year. We will not be holding a presentation in our auditorium in an effort to reduce large gatherings and the potential of transmission. Masks are required to be worn over your nose and mouth and hand sanitizer is available throughout different locations in the school building for your convenience. Lastly, staff members are required to remain 6 feet away from attendees as well as other staff members.



Our Board of Education will hold a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on **Thursday, October 28th** at Sussex Middle School. *Everyone is welcome!*

## Honoring Mr. Terwilliger



The Wantage School has requested that we join together as a team over the next four Fridays by wearing team jerseys (any team) or by wearing red, white, and blue in remembrance of Mr. Terwilliger. Additionally, in order to develop a more comprehensive approach to honor Mr. Terwilliger's legacy over the long term, we will host a virtual Remembrance Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 5th @ 4:00 pm. Any parent/guardian who wishes to participate is welcome to attend. Parents and guardians should RSVP to [dpsych@swregional.org](mailto:dpsych@swregional.org).

## 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.

## 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.



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](http://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](mailto:psc_help@payschools.com).

## Community Events



## 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.

## 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.

## Nurse's Corner



Sixth grade students are required by NJ law to have the Tdap and Menactra vaccines in order to attend school. If you have not yet done so, please forward proof of vaccination to the school nurse, Mrs. Silletti-Cayer. 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. More information regarding extracurricular sports and physicals was emailed to the school community on September 9th.



SWPTO 2021-22 Family Membership sign-up is open! We are so excited for the school year to begin and your \$5 per family membership fee goes a long way to help us provide programs, materials, and events at our schools. Families can sign up here:

[https://forms.zohopublic.com/sussexwantagepto/form/SussexWantagePTOMembershipSignUpPAID/formperma/SfOKSGp9fi06\\_oL5M-AzXJ9MQd\\_g-kwKxOwj1lc0iYc](https://forms.zohopublic.com/sussexwantagepto/form/SussexWantagePTOMembershipSignUpPAID/formperma/SfOKSGp9fi06_oL5M-AzXJ9MQd_g-kwKxOwj1lc0iYc)

The PTO's first fundraiser of the year has begun! Check out our amazing new design of school spirit-wear. Shop here: <https://sw2021.itemorder.com/sale> All info is on our website <https://www.swpto.org/>

## 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.

## Student Success

It is no secret that parent involvement in a child's school experience is one of the keys to a successful school experience. It is clear that a) family processes and practices are strongly related to students' academic, social, emotional, and behavioral outcomes while students are in school and beyond, and b) that when schools and families collaborate to support student learning, student outcomes are improved (Henderson & Mapp, 2002). So how can we do this?

Family and School Collaboration is the key to a child's success in school. Open lines of communication and collaboration with your child's teacher is the bridge between home and school allowing strong partnerships between family and school. Strong partnerships are not the only way a family can be involved. Family involvement can look like a variety of ways. At home setting organized routines and plans in place reduces anxiety and stress that can spill over into the classroom making it difficult for your student to focus and perform to the best of their ability. Getting plenty of rest (students 5-12 should be getting at least 10-12 hours of sleep) and making sure the sleeping environment has minimal to no distractions. Develop a homework routine that includes a space to complete homework and expectations, ex: that homework needs to be completed before dinner time or practice, etc. Families can get involved by volunteering for school based activities; such as fund raisers, book fairs, even joining the school's Parent-Teacher Organizations.

## Student Success (Cont.)

Most importantly, being your child's cheerleader and showing that you are excited for their school experience is the best way to start navigating your student's journey to a successful and positive year.

I would like to wish all the staff, families, and students a successful and happy school year.

Sara Maas, RTI Coordinator

## Sussex Middle School Achievement Academy

The all-new Sussex Middle School Achievement Academy will be starting Monday, October 4th and run until Wednesday, November 10th. This is a before and after-school program that provides exciting extracurricular and academic options including babysitting certification courses, physical education activities, board games, and academic support courses. Courses will run from 7:25-8:25am, and/or 3:30-4:30pm daily. A permission slip is available for SMS students in the cafeteria or auditorium.

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