

# Spotlight

Back-to-School Edition

August/September 2025

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### OUR MISSION

*Learning for All: Engaging and Preparing for Future Success*

### OUR VISION

*Southwestern:*

*A community providing a comprehensive and relevant education that enables every student to achieve.*

**INTEGRITY, KINDNESS,  
CONNECTIONS,  
EXCELLENCE**



**Southwestern  
Central School  
District**

600 Hunt Road, WE  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
716-484-1136  
www.swcsk12.org

## Learning takes flight



**Students of Southwestern Middle School enjoyed an art enrichment field trip to Roger Tory Peterson Institute in July 2025. They also visited the newly completed "Take Flight" mural in Jamestown featuring Roger Tory Peterson painted by artist Chuck Tingley. While at the museum, students toured the exhibition "Wild America: Art that Matters to the Planet," participated in art-making activities and enjoyed a nature hike.**

## Spacht Steering Schools to Success

A local leader in transportation is again receiving state-wide accolades.

John Spacht – the shared Transportation Supervisor for the Southwestern, Frewsburg, and Jamestown Public school districts – was awarded the 2025 New York Association for Pupil Transportation President’s Award on July 15 in recognition for his advocacy and leadership in public school transportation.



**JOHN SPACHT**

Spacht has been instrumental in advocating to state lawmakers for the unique needs of Western New York, including navigating through the Zero Emissions Busing requirements. In addition, he will serve as the president of NYAPT next year. Spacht

was previously awarded the New York Association for Pupil Transportation School Bus Driver Instructor of the Year in July 2021 in Saratoga.



# SWCS Board of Education 2025-2026

Mr. Kurt Gustafson, President

Dr. Elizabeth Laczi, Vice President

Mr. Michael Carothers

Mr. Troy Durnell

Mr. Joshua Gesing

Mr. Richard Hartmann

Mr. Kenneth Macdonald

Student members: Mr. Lincoln Bockrath & Miss Lucy Brown

The Board of Education meetings are held in the Board Room at Southwestern Middle School. Meetings at 6:00 p.m.

### BOE SCHEDULE

Regular meetings: September 16, October 14, November 18, December 16, January 10, February 11, March 10, March 24, April 14, May 13, June 9, and June 23.

## Social Media

Visit the Southwestern Central School website at [www.swcsk12.org](http://www.swcsk12.org) and follow us on Facebook page and Twitter (@SWCSTrojans) for the most up-to-date information about events, celebrations, meetings, opportunities as well as staff and student accomplishments.

## A Message from the Superintendent...

Dear Southwestern community,

The excitement of the start of a new school year is like none other. We miss our students and teachers and can't wait to have everyone back on campus! It has been nice to have some students attending summer school and participating in athletic training over the summer. We also enjoyed sharing our elementary school with students and staff from Erie 2 BOCES for their extended school year program while their campus is renovated. This shared experience was extremely positive thanks to everyone working together to give students the best learning environment possible!



MOLLY MOORE

Our buildings and grounds staff have worked tirelessly to organize, clean, and prepare our campus. Kudos to the teamwork and effort it takes to get our buildings shiny and clean. We hope everyone attends our Districtwide Open House on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, to meet your new teachers and see how great our campus looks!

This back-to-school edition of The Spotlight is loaded with helpful information. We hope everyone takes time to read it in the spirit of preparing for a successful kickoff to the new school year. Just like last year, ALL students at SWCS receive free breakfast and free lunch every

school day.

One significant change, particularly for high school students, is the "Bell-to-Bell" cell phone (and other internet enabled devices such as smart watches and earbuds) ban implemented by the state. We provided information about this on our social media and

website with information accessible at [www.swcsk12.org/cell-phone-policy](http://www.swcsk12.org/cell-phone-policy). We hope all families support this important change to improve.

Lastly and most importantly, I hope everyone together will focus on Southwestern's Mission: Learning for All. We will continue our critical work focusing on Professional Learning Communities and answering these questions: 1. What do we want our students to know? 2. How will we know they have learned it? 3. What will we do for the students who haven't learned it yet? 4. What will we do for the students who have learned it already? These critical questions continue to guide our work as we strive to be the best public school for all students.

Please reach out to me at (716) 484-1136 or [mmoore@swcsk12.org](mailto:mmoore@swcsk12.org) with questions or feedback. Go, Trojans!

Sincerely,  
Molly Moore,  
Superintendent of Schools

## Southwestern CSD Contact Numbers

Superintendent Molly Moore.....	716-484-1136
Superintendent's Secretary/District Clerk Pamela SaGurney.....	716-484-1136
District Office Fax/ Superintendent's Office Fax .....	716-488-2442
Director of Instructional Services Kaitlin Ring.....	716-484-1136
School Business Administrator Annette Rhebergen .....	716-484-1136
Personnel Relations Assistant Lisa Rockwell .....	716-484-1136
Buildings & Grounds Steve Olson .....	716-488-9866
Director of Transportation John Spacht .....	716-763-8391
Elementary School Main Office .....	716-664-1881
Middle School Main Office .....	716-664-6270
High School Main Office .....	716-664-6273

# A Message from the Elementary Principal

Greetings, Trojan families!

Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! I am so honored and excited to join the Southwestern Elementary School team!

I've spent the summer getting to know the staff, a few of our students, and their families. After spending the last 14 years in Charlotte, North Carolina, my wife and I recently returned home to Western New York with our two daughters. In Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, I served as a fifth-grade teacher, instructional coach, curriculum specialist, and most recently assistant principal.

I can't wait to get this school year started and see the faces of all our students come through the door each day. My priorities as we begin the school year will be to primarily observe and listen. I want to continue to learn what makes SWES a great place to teach and learn.

This summer we housed a few programs in the elementary school. We hosted guests from the BOCES 2 BOCES extended school year program, Little Seeds continued their programming, and we ran our own summer enrichment program for K-5 students. Our students in the enrichment program worked on reinforcing their literacy and math skills to prepare for the upcoming school year. They also participated in a variety of enrichment activities including star gazing in the planetarium, nature walks, e-sports, and physical education.

## Curriculum

Our teachers will continue their work strengthening their collaboration and alignment to state learning standards through their Professional Learning Communities during the 2025-2026 school year.

We will also continue our focus on Learning for All and reinforce our mission of engaging and preparing students through strong core instruction and research-based, data driven intervention and enrichment.

## School Opening & Schedule

Our first day of school with students is Tuesday, September 2, 2025. Open House takes place Wednesday, August 27, 2025. UPK and Kindergarten Open House is from 5:00-6:00 p.m. and Open House for grade 1-5 is from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Students are welcome to bring their supplies and leave them in their classrooms. Supply lists are available on the SWES page of the district website.

Students may be dropped off at 8:35 a.m. and wait at the main entrance until 8:50 a.m. If students are eating breakfast at school, they may enter through the cafeteria doors starting at 8:35 a.m. This year, breakfast and lunch are free for all students. Students



**MICHAEL BUTLER**

picked up in carpool will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. and buses will be dismissed at 3:20 p.m. Please be vigilant in the carpool line to ensure the safety of all students.

## Transportation

If your child was a bus rider last year, transportation has your child enrolled to ride the bus again this school year. New students, UPK, and Kindergarten students who will ride the bus will need to register either through the link on the SWCS website or by calling the transportation department at (716) 763-8391. This is the same process for any students who have a change of address or are planning to ride this year but were not bus riders last year. As we establish bus routes and routines at the beginning of the year, please be at your morning stop 10 minutes early for the first week. If you need to call in a transportation change, call the SWES office or send a note to school with your child. Our daily deadline to call in transportation changes is 1:30 p.m. to allow time for communication with staff and students.

## New Staff

- Kindergarten Teacher – Tamar Calimeri
- Transition to 4th Grade – Leslea Moss
- Teaching Assistant – Bridgette Winters

## Visitors

Our top priority is the safety of our students and staff. Visitors are limited to appointments only. Please call the office ahead of time to make an appointment at (716) 664-1881.

Parents/guardians MUST be board-approved to enter the school as a volunteer for parties and field trips. Applications for board-approved volunteers are available in the SWES office. If you are considering volunteering, please be proactive and get your application completed early to allow time for the approval process.

In addition to these volunteer opportunities, families and the community will be invited to events throughout the year. Schools thrive with strong support from families and the community. SWES is working to expand opportunities for family support.

I hope our families are as excited for this school year as I am! I'm looking forward to our continued efforts to promote integrity, kindness, connections, and excellence for all of our students. If you have any questions or concerns heading into the school year, please do not hesitate to reach out over the phone at (716) 664-1881.

Sincerely,  
*Michael Butler*  
Principal of Southwestern Elementary School

## A Message from the Technology & Curriculum Office

Dear Southwestern Community:

First, I would like to introduce myself, as I am new to the role of Director of Instructional Services. My name is Kaitlin Ring, and I previously served as principal at Southwestern Elementary School. I am beyond excited about this opportunity and look forward to building connections throughout the district.

Next, I would like to welcome everyone back for the 2025-2026 academic year! To prepare for the upcoming school year, the Technology Department has been working diligently to ensure a great start to the school year.

As in past years, student and teacher laptops and iPads have been updated and will be ready for distribution. The Technology Department has also led the district in the transition from Remind to ParentSquare. ParentSquare will be the primary communication method, allowing you to communicate with teachers and coaches, as well as receive building-level, athletic, and district communications. It also includes many new features, including the ability to report your child's absence.

As we continually work to improve our data privacy and security, we participated in an annual audit with BOCES to evaluate our network security. We recently made changes and work to grow from this opportunity every year. If you have any questions regarding



**KAITLIN RING**

ParentSquare or any other technology used within the district, please contact me at [kring@swcsk12.org](mailto:kring@swcsk12.org).

Staff worked tirelessly throughout the last school year and the summer to continue the Professional Learning Community process. We are also focusing on the Science of Reading and had a group of teachers participate in UFLI training and attend additional workshops offered by BOCES. Kagan Cooperative Learning training is once again being offered here at SWCS through Erie 2 BOCES.

We also hosted a new teacher orientation at the end of July. We are excited to welcome 14 new staff members!

SWCS staff return on Wednesday and Thursday, August 27-28, 2025, to participate in two Staff Development Days prior to the start of the school year on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. During those two days, we focus on completing our annual required training and continuing our PLC work.

I also look forward to seeing and meeting students and families at Districtwide Open House scheduled Wednesday, August 27, 2025!

Sincerely,  
*Kaitlin Ring*,  
Director of Instructional Services

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## A Message from the Elementary Assistant Principal

Dear Southwestern Community,  
Welcome to the 2025-2026 school year!

Whether you are returning for another year or joining our school community for the first time, we are thrilled to have you with us. We hope your summer was filled with fun and relaxation.

While looking ahead to this upcoming school year, Southwestern Elementary School is continuing our work with the PLC process.

Our staff is continuing to work closely and diligently in teams to focus on student learning, use data to guide instruction, and provide support for every child to succeed.

We are excited for another year of learning and improving in order to best meet the individual needs of our students.



**SARAH  
PETERSON**

I am excited for the upcoming school year, which will be filled with opportunities for our students to learn, grow, build friendships, and have fun.

I also look forward to the opportunity to continue to work closely with students, parents, staff, and community members to help make this a successful and wonderful school year where each child grows socially, academically, and emotionally. We are committed to making sure each child feels safe, supported, and celebrated.

Enjoy the remainder of summer break! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,  
*Sarah Peterson*  
Elementary Assistant Principal

# A Message from the Middle School Principal

Dear Students and Families,

I welcome you all back for the start of another fantastic school year! I am excited to be starting my second year with the Southwestern Middle School community.

We have had a great summer preparing and getting ready for the start of the 2025-2026 school year. We finished a successful summer school program, offering social studies, math, ELA and science classes and enrichment opportunities in arts and crafts. Highlights include making pottery, rock candy, slime, puff mobiles and a field trip to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute.

A big thank you to teachers: Tina Clark, Aaron Emley, Jack Felton, Kim Pannes, and Diane LaGrega for providing our students with these creative opportunities.

We have also been preparing for a positive start to the school year here at SWMS. The maintenance and custodial staff have done a fantastic job ensuring our building is clean and ready for action when we get started in September.

The first full day for students is Tuesday, September 2, 2025. The earliest students should be arriving at school is 7:15 a.m. Buses will drop students off at 7:30 a.m. at the middle and high school. Students can wait for the 7:35 a.m. bell in the cafeteria or lobby by the office. Students will be considered tardy if they are not in class by the 7:45 a.m. bell.

I can't stress enough the importance of student attendance. For your child to reach their full potential and experience success, they must be present and on time for school every day.

## Priority Areas

As we progress into this school year, our four priority areas will continue to guide our efforts and ensure we continue to provide the best possible education for our students.

- *The Student Experience:* Our school prioritizes creating a positive and inclusive student experience by setting clear behavioral expectations, promoting academic rigor, and ensuring that every student is supported in their learning and well-being. We are equally committed to fostering mental health and providing diverse co-curricular opportunities that enrich student growth beyond the classroom.

- *Community Connections:* Our school values strong community connections by fostering open



GREG LAUER

communication, encouraging meaningful parent involvement, and building collaborative partnerships with local organizations. We also prioritize creating positive, supportive relationships between families and school staff to enhance the overall educational experience.

- *The Staff Experience:* We are committed to enhancing the staff experience by fostering a strong sense of community and collaboration through professional learning communities. By supporting effective instructional practices and continuous professional growth, we empower staff to positively impact student learning.

- *A Safe and Welcoming Environment:* We prioritize a safe and welcoming environment by fostering a positive school culture and climate where all students and staff feel valued and supported. Through a focus on safety, security, and ongoing facility enhancements, we ensure our school remains inviting and a well-maintained space for learning and growth.

## Trojan Troops

Our goal at Southwestern Middle School is to help our students not only grow academically but also socially, and emotionally. This year we will continue working towards this goal with our "Trojan Troops" which puts students in teams that meet regularly and focus on the Southwestern core values: Integrity, Kindness, Connections, and Excellence.

Our faculty has a lot of fun and engaging activities planned for our students to help them build confidence and foster strong relationships with their peers and the staff.

## Cell Phones

Our new cell phone policy will be in effect starting the first day of school. This policy has not changed that much from what we had in place last year. To create the best educational environment for our students and staff, all cell phones/smartwatches must remain in student lockers and turned off throughout the school day. Students will not be able to send or receive messages during the school day. If your child needs to get in touch with you, they will have access to a phone in the middle school office.

If you need to get a message to your child you may do so by calling our office secretary, Amber Hasson, at (716) 664-6270.

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### **Communication**

To create and maintain an effective partnership between families and the school, constant communication is a necessity. We will be communicating in several ways to our school community. At times, our middle school office will use our new Parent Square system (formerly Remind) and School Messenger, which can send mass emails, texts, and voicemails to entire groups in our district. Teachers and staff will also use Parent Square, the TEAMS App, emails, and phone calls to reach out. I strongly believe that consistent communication is one of the best ways to keep everyone working toward the goal of providing our students with a high-quality education. Please reach out to me by phone or email with any questions or concerns.

### **Schedule Changes**

This year we have made some changes to our 7th and 8th grade schedules. Students in these grade levels will no longer be on the block schedule, where they have 80-minute core classes (science, English, math, and social studies) every other day. All classes in 6th, 7th and 8th grade for the 25-26 school year will be 40 minutes in length, and they will meet every day. In our previous scheduling model, we noticed students having difficulty staying focused for the full 80 minutes and when students were absent on certain days, they could go as many as five days without having one of their classes.

Going back to the traditional model of 40-minute classes every day will put students in a better situation to be successful. Also, in support of our mission statement of 'Learning for All,' we have added an academic lab period into the schedule so we can provide extra support and enrichment opportunities for all our students. Our 6th graders experienced success with the use of the academic lab the past few years and now all our grade levels will be able to utilize the extra time as well.

### **Staff Changes**

- Carl Johnson will be our new 8th grade Special Education teacher, replacing Dan Vanderzyden who retired in June.
- Drew Keppel will be taking over in 7th grade Technology for the retiring Dan Thomas.
- Mikayla Dole joins us as a new special education teacher in 6th grade.
- Elizabeth Harrison will continue as a physical education teacher after starting with us at the end of May last school year.
- Angela Beachner is joining us from the



**TRANSPORTATION REMINDER: Families are encouraged to fill out the form for all transportation registration changes. Please note that new changes can take 3-5 school days before being implemented.**

elementary school and will be working with Ms. Dole as a teacher's aide.

These five educators will be fantastic additions to our middle school team; be sure to welcome them to our Trojan family!

### **Open House**

The middle school open house will occur in conjunction with the high school this year, and will take place on Wednesday, August 27th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. I hope that most of you will take advantage of this opportunity to come and meet our fantastic staff and myself before we get started this school year.

### **Trojan Pride**

The staff at SWMS is committed to our district mission statement, "Learning for all: engaging and preparing for future success." We are focused on our students being prepared for their next phase of life not just academically, but socially, emotionally, and physically. Our school will always provide rewarding learning experiences; students, staff, parents, and the community will work together; and everyone will treat each other with respect. These core values and a student-centered approach will always guide my decisions when it comes to what is best for your child. On behalf of the entire Southwestern Middle School staff, we are looking forward to having a safe and productive school year. Enjoy the rest of your summer break, and I hope to see a lot of you Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at Open House.

Sincerely,  
*Greg Lauer*  
Middle School Principal

# A Message from the High School Principal

Dear Trojan Families and Community Partners,

I hope this letter finds each of you enjoying a healthy, restful and rejuvenating summer. As we prepare to welcome students back for the 2025-2026 school year, as your new high school principal, I am filled with immense excitement and optimism about the opportunities ahead at Southwestern High School.

We begin this year with a renewed focus on **academic rigor and excellence**, building on a strong tradition of success. At SWHS, we are committed to offering challenging and meaningful coursework that prepares students to meet the demands of a rapidly changing world. We believe **ALL** students, regardless of background or experience, deserve access to high-quality learning experiences that stretch their thinking and build competence and confidence. Our goal is not only to graduate students but to graduate young adults who are curious, critical thinkers and compassionate leaders.

To support this work, our staff continues to engage in the **Professional Learning Communities** process-a collaborative approach that focuses on 4 critical questions: What do we want all students to learn? How will we know if each student has learned it? How will we respond when some students do not learn it? How will we extend the learning for students who have demonstrated proficiency? Through collaboration meetings, shared data analysis and focused intervention strategies, our teachers are constantly refining their practice to meet the individual needs of **EVERY** student. This approach is not a program - it's a professional culture and one that is making a real difference.

Our efforts are guided by Southwestern Central School District's Blueprint for Excellence, which lays out a clear vision for student success across academics, social-emotional development, equity and leadership. This Blueprint for Excellence challenges each of us to set high expectations, maintain clear goals and foster a sense of belonging for all students. Within this framework, we are working to build a school environment where students feel supported and empowered to take ownership of their learning.

As we focus on preparing students for life beyond high school, we also recognize the challenges of living in an age of constant connectivity. In response to growing concerns from parents, educators and mental health professionals, **Governor Kathy Hochul announced a statewide initiative to limit**



**MATT KINDBERG**

**student use of personal cell phones, bell-to-bell, in New York State K-12 public schools.** Research shows that excessive screen time - especially during instructional hours - can negatively impact student attention, academic performance, social interactions and mental wellness.

In line with this new state guidance, the SWCS Board of Education adopted a **new cell phone policy**. While we recognize technology plays an important role in modern life, we also believe in the importance of intentional, undistracted learning. During school hours (bell-to-bell), students are expected to store their phones in their school-issued locker(s) and refrain from personal use unless authorized for academic purposes. We ask for your partnership and support as we implement these changes, which are intended to help students engage more fully with their learning and with one another.

This initiative aligns closely with a core value that we strive to model and teach daily: **the Golden Rule-treat others the way you want to be treated.** In every classroom, hallway and social interaction, we emphasize kindness, empathy and mutual respect. Whether it's in our academic policies, our behavioral expectations or our athletic programs, we believe treating others with dignity is essential to creating a safe and inclusive school culture.

We will also continue to prioritize strong communication and family engagement. Education is not a solo journey; it requires collective responsibility between school, home and the greater community. Your involvement is critical - whether through attending school events, staying in contact with teachers or simply encouraging your child to do their best - each of these engagements makes a tremendous difference.

We look forward to welcoming students back into the building beginning **Tuesday, September 2, 2025.** We will be receiving updates about schedules, transportation, extra-curricular opportunities and important school-wide events. Please stay connected through our district website, emails and social media platforms for the latest information.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and belief in our mission. Here's to a fantastic school year ahead!

With Trojan Pride,  
*Matt Kindberg*  
Southwestern High School Principal

# A Message from the High School Secondary Principal

Dear Southwestern High School community:

I'm excited to introduce myself as the new assistant principal at Southwestern High School. As we prepare for the 2025–2026 school year, I'm truly honored to join a school community that values connection, kindness, and a shared commitment to student success.

My background is in music education, with the flute as my primary instrument. I earned a bachelor's degree from The State University of New York at Fredonia and a master's degree from Buffalo State. I completed my administrative certification through the Warner School of Education at the University of Rochester. I've taught band, choir, and general music in Buffalo Public Schools, and also served in the East Aurora and Franklinville central school districts. I completed my administrative internship at Frontier Central School District, where I gained valuable experience supporting students, staff, and families at both the building and district levels.



**MARIELLE GUIDO**

Outside of school, I'm very close with my family and enjoy spending time outdoors — especially skiing, rock climbing, and running. I'm passionate about all things fitness and love staying active in my free time. I also remain connected to my musical roots by performing in community ensembles and attending live performances whenever I can. I enjoy a wide variety of music and am always open to new playlist recommendations!

At the heart of my leadership is the belief that acceptance is the ultimate human quality. I'm committed to creating a school environment where every student feels safe, seen, and celebrated. I look forward to partnering with families, staff, and students to make this school year one filled with growth, connection, and Trojan pride.

With gratitude,  
*Miss Marielle Guido*  
Assistant Principal of Southwestern High School

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## Parents As Teachers Program

Parenting is hard. Wouldn't it be nice to have a guide along the way? Consider a partnership that will give you and your child the best possible start by ensuring optimal development and educational success.

The Parents As Teachers program offers individualized, interactive early learning experiences for the young siblings of school-aged children. It is a free program for all families residing in the Southwestern Central School District.

It serves families from pregnancy through Kindergarten. It is designed to inform, support



and encourage parents in their important role as their child's first and most influential teacher.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** During monthly home visits, PAT liaisons offer child development resources, developmental screenings, and service referrals in addition to classroom visitation opportunities, support groups, and workshops. The program also creates social, group opportunities that connect parents and children with other young families.

**FOCUS AREAS:** Parent empowerment through parent-led child interaction, as well as developmental centered parenting and family well-being.

Contact SWCS for more information.

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## Clothing & Supply Closets Support All Students

The 222 Closet at Southwestern High School -- a free apparel, supplies and food resource -- is available to all students in grades 6-12. To inquire or donate, reach out to Ms. Stockwell at [bstockwell@swcsc12.org](mailto:bstockwell@swcsc12.org) or 1-716-664-6237.

The Clothing Closet at Southwestern Elementary School meets students' needs for pants, shorts, underwear, socks, swimsuits, towels and more. To inquire or donate, contact Ms. Certo at [jcerto@swcsc12.org](mailto:jcerto@swcsc12.org) or 1-716-484-6822.

# Community Eligibility Provision

Southwestern is pleased to announce we will continue to operate the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2025-2026 school year.

Schools that participate in the CEP can provide a healthy breakfast and lunch each day at no charge for all students enrolled in a CEP school.

What does this mean? Each student will be provided with a standard meal – breakfast and/or lunch – either the daily menu offering or the alternate meal is covered.

Additional meals or “a la carte” items such as additional milk, bottled water, chips, etc., will still be available for purchase. An additional breakfast can be purchased for \$1.65 (grades 6-12)/\$1.50 (Kindergarten-grade 5), and an additional lunch can be purchased for \$2.05 (grades 6-12)/\$1.90 (Kindergarten-grade 5).

As a result of participating in the Community Eligibility

Provision, we are eliminating the collection of meal applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals. We are requesting that you complete the Household Income Form to determine eligibility for additional State and Federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for.

Most importantly, such data is used for additional state and federal funding for rural, economically disadvantaged school districts such as Southwestern.

Please complete the form and return it to Ameer Kennedy in the district office. We would like the forms returned by September 19, 2025.

We feel that this program will be a benefit to the students and families in our district. Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that we can bring programs like CEP and others to our district. If you have any questions, please contact Ameer Kennedy at (716) 484-6800.

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## What's Happening in 2025-2026

### SEPTEMBER 2025

1 Labor Day/No School  
2 First Day of Student Attendance  
17 HS Picture Day  
22 MS Picture Day  
22 5th Grade Band/Orchestra  
Parent Meeting 7 p.m.

### OCTOBER 2025

3 Emergency Go Home Early Drill  
7 ES Picture Day  
9 Title I Parent Info Zoom 7 p.m.  
13 Indigenous Peoples Day/No School  
15 HS Picture Retakes  
18 Homecoming Dance  
24 Superintendent's Day/No Student Attendance  
31 Trunk-or-Treat

### NOVEMBER 2025

5 MS Picture Retakes  
7 MS/HS End of 1st Quarter  
7 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences;  
12:10 p.m. dismissal  
10 No Student Attendance  
11 Veterans Day observed/No School  
14 MS/HS Report Cards  
19 ES Picture Retakes  
21 15 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences; 12:10 p.m. dismissal  
26-28 Thanksgiving Recess

### DECEMBER 2025

4 Gr. 5 Winter Concert 7 p.m.  
5 ES End of 1st Trimester  
10 Gr. 6 Winter Concert 6 p.m.  
10 Gr. 7-8 Winter Concert 7:30 p.m.

12 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences;  
12:10 p.m. early dismissal  
15 Report Cards Grades 1-5  
17 HS Winter Concert 7 p.m.  
22-31 Winter Recess

### JANUARY 2026

1-2 Winter Recess continues  
9 UPK applications available  
19 MLK Jr. Day/No School  
20-23 Regents Exams at HS  
23 MS/HS End of 2nd Quarter  
30 Report Cards MS/HS

### FEBRUARY 2026

10 Grade 8 Orientation 7 p.m.  
6 UPK & K Report Cards  
16 Presidents Day/No School  
17 Lunar New Year  
18-20 Mid-Winter Recess

### MARCH 2026

6 UPK application deadline 4 p.m.  
9 Kindergarten applications available  
11-20 ES Book Fair  
13 Superintendent's Day/No Student Attendance  
19 Spring Concert Gr. 6-8  
19 Battle of the Classes  
20 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences  
12:10 p.m. dismissal  
27 End of 2nd Trimester ES  
25 Spring Concert 9-12 7 p.m.  
27 ES End of 2nd Trimester

### APRIL 2026

2 Report Cards Grades 1-5  
3-10 Spring Recess

17 MS/HS End of 3rd Quarter  
23 ES Spring Pictures  
23 Gr. 5 Chorus Concert 7 p.m.  
24 MS/HS Report Cards  
30 Gr. 5 Spring Band & Orchestra Concert 7 p.m.

### MAY 2026

7 MS Spring Pictures  
12 Budget Hearing 6 p.m.  
15 Gr. 5 Spelling Bee  
18 Top 10 Luncheon  
18-22 Kindergarten Round-Up  
19 Annual Budget Vote & BOE Election 7-9 a.m. & 2-8 p.m.  
19 MS Pops Concert 6:30 p.m.  
20 Senior Pictures  
25 Memorial Day  
27 Trojan Triathlon (raindate May 28)  
28 HS Pops Concert 7 p.m.

### JUNE 2026

8 HS Scholarship Night 7 p.m.  
9 & 17-25 Regents Exams  
10 Gr. 5 Parent Orientation 7 p.m.  
11 Jr. Honor Society induction ceremony 7:30 p.m.  
12 ES Field Day & Flag Day Parade  
16 Senior Walk/Breakfast  
17 MS Awards 2:50 p.m.  
19 Juneteenth/No Student Attendance  
25 Baccalaureate 7 p.m.  
26 End of 4th Quarter MS/HS  
26 Graduation 7 p.m.  
30 End of 3rd Trimester ES



## 2025-2026 Household Income Form

Southwestern Central School District is participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). All students that are enrolled in and attending classes within the Southwestern Central School District are eligible to receive a breakfast and/or lunch at no charge regardless of household income or completion of this form. This form is to determine eligibility for additional State and Federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for. Please complete only one form per household, sign and return to Ameer Kennedy at Southwestern CSD, 600 Hunt Road, Jamestown, NY 14701. If you have any questions, please call (716)484-6800.

**1. Please list all members of your household.**

Name of <u>all</u> people living in the household	Grade	School the child attends, indicate "NA" if not in school

**2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR/Medicaid Benefits:**

If anyone in your household receives either SNAP, TANF, FDPIR or Medicaid benefits, please circle which benefit, list their name and CASE # here. Skip to Part 4 and sign the application.

Please circle benefit:                      SNAP                      TANF                      FDRIP                      Medicaid

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CASE # \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Household Gross Income:**

1. Circle the total number of all people living in your household, how much and how often they are paid (weekly, every other week, twice per month, monthly).
2. Circle the box that represents the range of annual household income. Make sure to include all of the following income sources: work, welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA benefits, and/or all other income. The amount should be before any deductions for taxes, insurance, medical expenses, child support, etc. Select the appropriate range of combined annual income for all people in the household include all income sources listed above, before taxes.

Total # of people in household	At or below	Between	At or above
1	\$20,345	\$20,346-\$28,953	\$28,954
2	\$27,495	\$27,496-\$39,128	\$39,129
3	\$34,645	\$34,646-\$49,303	\$49,304
4	\$41,795	\$41,796-\$59,478	\$59,479
5	\$48,945	\$48,946-\$69,653	\$69,654
6	\$56,095	\$56,096-\$79,828	\$79,829
7	\$63,245	\$63,246-\$90,003	\$90,004
8	\$70,395	\$70,396-\$100,178	\$100,179

If household size is more than 8, fill in the # of people in the household and annual income amount below.

# \_\_\_\_\_ Income \_\_\_\_\_

I certify (promise) that all the information on this form is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given to the school so that the school may receive federal funds. The school officials may verify the information and if I purposely give false information, I may be prosecuted under applicable State and federal laws, and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**Privacy Notice:** The New York State Department of Education is requiring schools to collect the information on this form. You do not have to provide this information, but if you do not, we cannot determine your child's eligibility for additional benefits under state and federal programs. We will treat the information you provide to us as private and confidential to the extent required by law. However, we may share your socioeconomic status with state and federal programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. Regardless, all students enrolled in a Community Eligibility Provision school will receive a meal at no charge.

**Non-Discrimination Statement** In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form. This form can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9999, by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:**  
(833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
3. **email:**  
[program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



## Southwestern Telephone Directory

Business Office.....484-1136  
 District Office .....484-1136  
 District Office Fax . 488-2442  
 Supt. Office Fax.... 488-2442  
 Special Education. 664-4675  
 Technology ..... 483-5473  
 Transportation ..... 763-8391

### Elementary School Pre-K through Grade 5

Main Office ..... 664-1881  
 Health Office..... 484-6822  
 Attendance ..... 484-6823  
 Fax..... 487-3170

### Middle School-Grades 6-8

Main Office ..... 664-6270  
 Health Office..... 484-6841  
 Guidance/  
 Attendance..... 484-6842  
 Fax..... 487-0855

### High School-Grades 9-12

Main Office ..... 664-6273  
 Health Office..... 664-6275  
 Guidance Office/Career  
 Center..... 664-6276  
 Attendance ..... 484-6861  
 Fax..... 484-1167

**The Spotlight is published through the Board of Education of the Southwestern Central School District**

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 CENTRAL  
 SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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 Jamestown, NY 14701  
 Tel: 716-484-1136  
[www.swcsk12.org](http://www.swcsk12.org)

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# ParentSquare

## New Platform for School Communication

Southwestern Central School District is using ParentSquare to communicate with families at the school, and in your classrooms and groups.

ParentSquare provides a simple and safe way for everyone at school to connect.

With ParentSquare you'll be able to:

- Receive all district, school and classroom communication via email, text, or app
- View the school and classroom calendar and RSVP for events
- Easily sign up to volunteer and/or bring items
- Securely receive report cards, IEPs and other important student documents

You can use ParentSquare on any device. You can download the free mobile app for iOS or Android or use



the desktop version at [www.parentsquare.com](http://www.parentsquare.com).

Our goal is for every family to join ParentSquare and engage with our school community.

**Did you know Southwestern CSD has a year-round Trojan Fan Store through BSN Sports? You can order gear directly to your home. The link to shop is located on the school website's Athletics page under the "Trojan Fan Store" tab.**

