

# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

---

## PARENT AND STUDENT HANDBOOK

---



---

[sms.somersschools.org](https://sms.somersschools.org)



# WELCOME

01

## **Our Mission**

Somers Central School District will ignite a passion in each student by engaging all learners at a personal level to ensure success in a global society.

02

## **Our Vision**

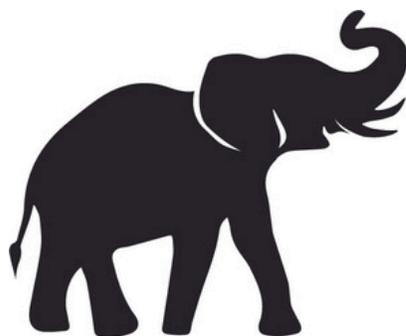
The vision for SCSD encompasses three fundamental areas, each an important component of the Whole Child:

- 21st Century Knowledge & Skills
- Social, Emotional, & Physical Wellness
- Global Citizenship

03

## **Our School Mission**

Somers Middle School is committed to meaningful growth, learning, and the social emotional well-being of our students. We strive to integrate the Middle Years Programme framework, concepts and skills to nurture life-long learning and global awareness. We aim to engage students with a focus on reflection, open-mindedness and inquiry.

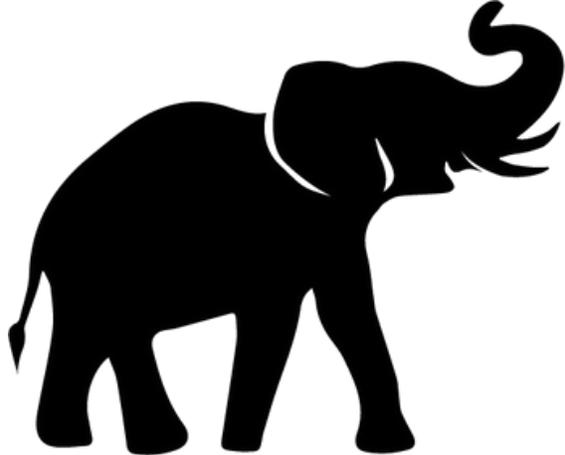


# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## OUR TUSKER INSTRUCTIONAL TEAM AT SMS

	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
	Ms. Tara Garrett Mr. Joseph Savastano Ms. Dawn Stanczuk Ms. Jen Schneider Ms. Deborah Kilmer Mr. Curtis Dell Mr. Rob Paulemo Ms. Jacqueline Dolan Ms. Janna Salce Mr. Jake Graham Ms. Diane Acampora Ms. Julia Mohl (SCIP) Mr. Ian Smith	Ms. Amy Bergin Mr. Tim Wilbert Ms. Christina Sweeney Ms. Alison Holt Ms. Ed Mullaney Ms. Carolyn Shilinski Ms. Danielle Bassie Ms. Danyelle Giloth Ms. Andrea Hayden Ms. Skylar Pappas Ms. Dawn Reimer Mr. Terry Panetta	Mr. Eric Woolsey Ms. Kirsten Reynolds Ms. Lori Kearns Mr. Chris Kollaros Ms. Laura Pandolas Ms. Deb Henrie Dr. Keith Surrana Ms. Christine Velez Ms. Rebecca Racioppo Ms. Darlene Esposito Ms. Agostina Almonte Ms. Marianna Breglio Ms. Cathy Jelinek
	World Language	Specials/Art	Physical Education
	Ms. Carmen Quinn Ms. Randi Hauser Ms. Alison Pepe Ms. Annette Soares Ms. Angie Gottlieb Mr. Daniel Drebycz Ms. MaryAnn Eskew	Mr. Jesse Arnett Ms. Jennifer Gueli Mr. Richard Devito Mr. Matthew Lugo Mr. Ron DiSanto Mr. Gary Wanderlingh Ms. Angela Holder	Mr. Chad Brenneman Ms. Deborah Daly Mr. Ron DiSanto
	Music	AIS	MYP/Library
	Ms. Marie Williams Ms. Rachel Malara Mr. Miles Gilbert	Ms. Celeste DiDona Ms. Deb Hendrie Mr. Dean Pappas Ms. Shannon Frey	Ms. Jenna Schettino Ms. Meghan O'Conner



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## WELCOME TO SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Somers Middle School is a community of students and faculty who respect one another, and share the responsibility for maintaining high expectations for academic achievement and personal growth.

SMS offers the district's sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students a strong academic program in the foundation subjects while stressing development of the whole child. Middle school teachers provide a caring, structured environment where learning is valued, differences accepted, and the challenges of adolescence recognized. Students are encouraged to explore and develop interests in areas beyond the core curriculum to broaden their life experiences.

In order to guarantee a successful year it is important that students and their families understand the information, guidelines, and policies outlined in this handbook. A careful study of this material will create a common understanding of the Middle School and its expectations, and will better ensure the success of each student.

At SMS, a TUSKER is a Team Player who Understands Differences, possesses a strong set of Student Skills supported by Kindness, Effort, Respect, and Responsibility. All staff members work with students to support the development of these ideals daily.

Our goal is to maintain close communication between faculty and families so that we can support the best interests of every Somers Middle School student. Please do not hesitate to call us or any member of our staff with questions or concerns. With everyone working together we are guaranteed another successful year at SMS!

**Jennifer Mangone**

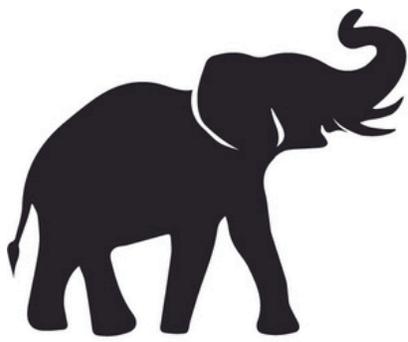
*Principal*

✉ [JMangone@somersschools.org](mailto:JMangone@somersschools.org)

**Kristen Mucciacciaro**

*Assistant Principal*

✉ [KMucciacciaro@somersschools.org](mailto:KMucciacciaro@somersschools.org)



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## STUDENT SUPPORT

---

### SCHOOL COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center at Somers Middle School works proactively to ensure the continuing growth of each student academically, socially, and emotionally. The mission of the center is to identify and work through issues that may interfere with student learning and enhance students' self-understanding to clarify goals, provide the tools necessary to achieve those goals, and to maximize each individual's potential.

In order to provide students with individualized and consistent support, our counseling centers follows a "looping model." Counselors are assigned to students when they enter our school and grade six and "loop" with their students each year.

### Our SMS Counseling Team



Grade 6

Mrs. Stephanie Kurhack



Grade 7

Mr. John Fleck



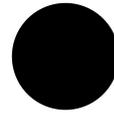
Grade 8

Mrs. Ellen Bieber



Student Assistant Counselor

Amanda Casey



SEL Interventionist

Weslinne Cespedes



School Psychologist

Sean Kennelly



School Psychologist

Samantha Morrison

# MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAMME



What Is MYP?	What is NOT MYP?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is inquiry Based</li> <li>• Is Aligned with NYS Standards</li> <li>• Is a framework to create authentic assessments</li> <li>• Is Interdisciplinary Based</li> <li>• Is intended to help students with critical thinking</li> <li>• Is assessments based on rubrics</li> <li>• Is Real-World connections</li> <li>• Is Application of Skills</li> <li>• Is centered around reflection</li> <li>• Is Student Centered</li> <li>• Is connected to the community</li> <li>• Is Collaborative for both students and professionals</li> <li>• Is connected to Learner Attributes</li> <li>• Is a consistent framework to develop units</li> <li>• Is a way that teaching and learning is approached differently, but content is the same</li> <li>• Is a way of learning that ALL Students at SMS engage in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not a prescribed program/canned program</li> <li>• Not teacher Driven</li> <li>• Not Lecture Style</li> <li>• Not Memorization</li> <li>• Not subjects taught in isolation</li> <li>• Not a one Size Fits All Mindset</li> <li>• Not teaching without connection</li> <li>• Not different or new content</li> <li>• Not something students apply for or enroll in (In Grades 6-10)</li> </ul>



# IB learner profile

The aim of all IB programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world.

## As IB learners we strive to be:

### INQUIRERS

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

### KNOWLEDGEABLE

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

### THINKERS

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

### COMMUNICATORS

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

### PRINCIPLED

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

### OPEN-MINDED

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

### CARING

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

### RISK-TAKERS

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

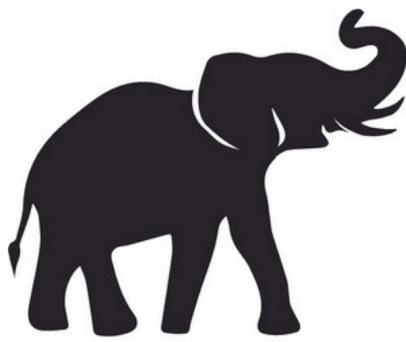
### BALANCED

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives—intellectual, physical, and emotional—to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

### REFLECTIVE

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

The IB learner profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals and groups become responsible members of local, national and global communities.



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## MYP GLOBAL CONTEXTS



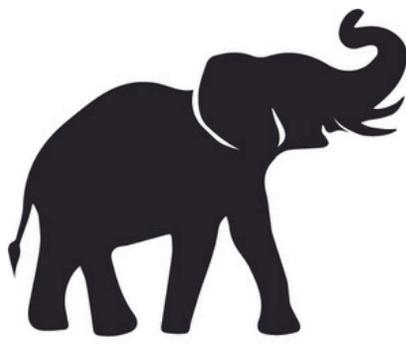
### APPROACHES TO TEACHING

- ★ BASED ON INQUIRY
- ★ FOCUSED ON CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING
- ★ DEVELOPED IN LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS
- ★ FOCUSED ON EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION
- ★ DIFFERENTIATED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL LEARNERS
- ★ INFORMED BY FORMATIVE AND SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

### APPROACHES TO LEARNING

- SOCIAL SKILLS**
  - Developing positive interpersonal relationships and collaboration skills
  - Developing social-emotional intelligence
- RESEARCH SKILLS**
  - Information-literacy skills
  - Media-literacy skills
  - Ethical use of media/information
- THINKING SKILLS**
  - Critical-thinking skills
  - Creative-thinking skills
  - Transfer skills
  - Reflection/metacognitive skills
- COMMUNICATION SKILLS**
  - Exchanging-information skills
  - Literacy skills
  - ICT skills
- SELF-MANAGEMENT SKILLS**
  - Organization skills
  - States of mind

## APPROACHES TO LEARNING ATL



SOMERS  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

# MYP COMMUNITY PROJECT

MYP projects are student-centered and age appropriate, and they enable students to engage in practical explorations through a cycle of inquiry, action and reflection. MYP projects help students to develop the attributes of the IB learner profile; provide students with an essential opportunity to demonstrate approaches to learning (ATL) skills developed through the MYP; and foster the development of independent, lifelong learners.

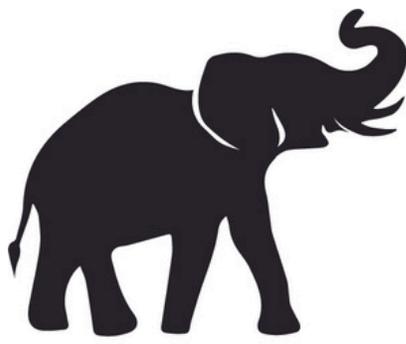
The community project focuses on community and service, encouraging students to explore their rights and responsibilities to implement service as action in the community. The community project gives students an opportunity to develop awareness of needs in various communities and address those needs through service learning. As a consolidation of learning, the community project engages in a sustained, in-depth inquiry leading to service as action in the community.



Jenna Schettino  
MYP Coordinator Grades 6-10



Megan O'Connor  
Community Project Advisor



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## ACADEMIC HONESTY AND INTEGRITY POLICY

### 01

#### **Mission**

It is the expectation that all SMS students display academic honesty by giving credit to others for their work. It is crucial that all students are principled and follow the guidelines listed below. In education, we are continually studying the ideas of others. It is important, in our speaking and writing, that we acknowledge these ideas and give credit where it is due. Teaching and learning promotes the understanding and practice of academic honesty.

### 02

#### **Vision**

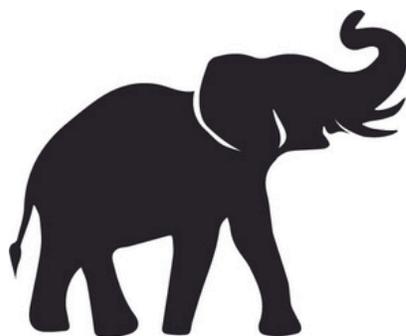
Somers Middle School strives to be a school that develops and empowers future innovators and leaders, who are principled in their approach to work. We see ourselves as life-long learners, while cultivating a joy of learning in both students and teachers. We aim to create an environment that offers rich educational experiences, and intrinsically motivates respect for the learning community.

### 03

#### **Values**

We value the IB Learner Profile Attributes and how they are upheld by academic integrity and fidelity.

- Principled: give credit and cite sources when using primary or secondary sources, such as words, phrases, share ideas, and/or images
- Risk-taker: choose to always do authentic work and report any misconduct
- Thinker: consider how to convey information in a way that is authentic and original
- Inquirer: ask for clarification when necessary
- Open-minded: consider how information can be applied and used
- Communicator: use personal voice and words by paraphrasing
- Balanced: manage time, so work is finished by deadlines, therefore reducing the temptation to cheat
- Caring: respect other's work and ideas by giving proper credit
- Reflective: consider the benefits of being honest and turning in authentic work
- Knowledgeable: understand the use of subject specific citation formats

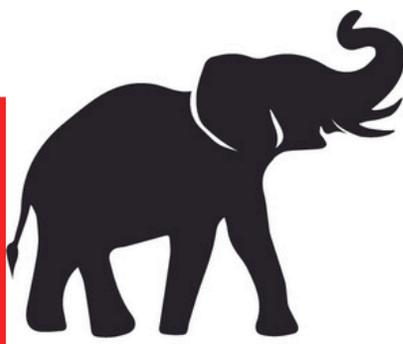


# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

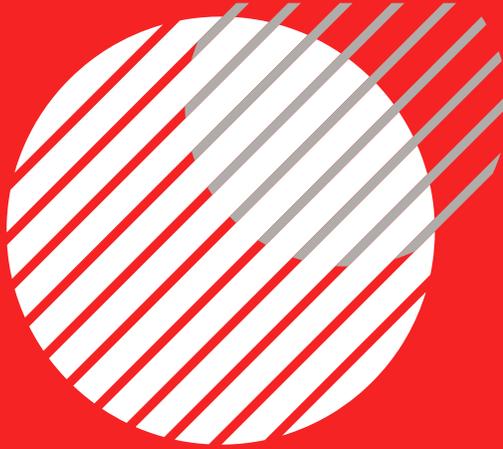
## DEFINING CONCEPTS OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Concept	Definition
Collaboration vs. Collusion	<p>Facilitated collaboration is <i>acceptable and encouraged</i>. Multiple students actively engaging during the course and creation of a product per the assignment guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• working with others towards the same goal with the intentional sharing of ideas through teacher-sanctioned groups</li><li>• legitimate and permissible when permitted by the teacher. It is important to note that teachers must be clear with assignment guidelines to specify what is collaboration versus collusion on any given task.</li></ul> <p>Collusion is <i>unacceptable</i>. Collusion is when students present work as their own that is, in whole or in part, the result of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• unauthorized collaboration</li><li>• plagiarism due to inappropriate collaboration during work that is designed to be completed individually</li><li>• working with others without permission or is the product of two or more students working together without official approval</li><li>• impersonating another student on any academic task</li></ul>
Authentic Authorship	<p>Authentic authorship is the creation of work based on one's own ideas with the ideas and words of others given appropriate credit. It is important to note that students may use resources that support their ideas in authentic authorship, but if they do so, "they must acknowledge the source (s) using a standard style of referencing in a consistent manner." This can be done through a Works Cited or Bibliography</p>
Plagiarism	<p>Plagiarism includes any use of another individual's words or ideas without giving appropriate credit in an approved citation format.</p>
Cheating	<p>Cheating is when a student makes a deliberate choice to gain an unfair advantage. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, copying another student's work (with or without their knowledge), copying assessment tasks, forgery, and using unauthorized resources during and assessment.</p>
Duplication	<p>Duplication is the submission of the same work for different assessment or curriculum components without an instructor's direct permission, across disciplines or over time. All work should be original unless discussed with the instructor in advance.</p>
Fabrication	<p>Making up data or results and recording or reporting them; submitting fabricated documents.</p>
Falsification	<p>Manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record.</p>
Intellectual Property	<p>Intellectual property refers to the ideas or work of an individual or group, including professionals and students.</p>



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*



## Philosophy

It is the expectation that all SMS students display academic honesty by giving credit to others for their work in our writing and our speaking.

It is crucial that all students are **principled** and follow the guidelines listed in this resource.

## Students are expected to:

- always submit your own work for all classes and assignments
- acknowledge all sources for any intellectual property of others
- use proper citation formats and tools
- show proper conduct during assessments
- follow teacher directions and expectations for group work and individual assignments
- ask for help or clarification when needed

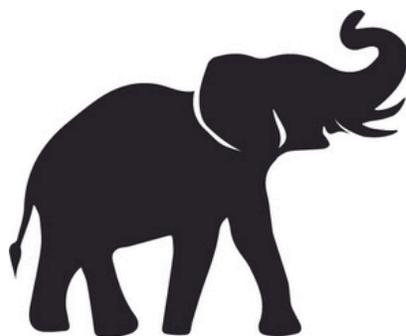


SMS

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & HONESTY POLICY

FOR STUDENTS

August 2023



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*



**Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:**

- plagiarism
- collusion
- duplication of work
- any other behavior that gives an unfair advantage to a student or that affects the results of another student (falsifying data, misconduct during an examination, creating inauthentic reflections)

**Principled**

give credit and cite sources  
use MLA format to cite sources

**Risk-taker**

always do authentic work  
report any misconduct

**Thinker**

convey information in a way that is authentic and original

**Inquirer**

ask for clarification when necessary

**Open-minded**

consider how information can be applied and used

**Communicator**

use personal voice and words by paraphrasing

**Balanced**

manage time, so work is finished by deadlines, therefore reducing the temptation to cheat

**Caring**

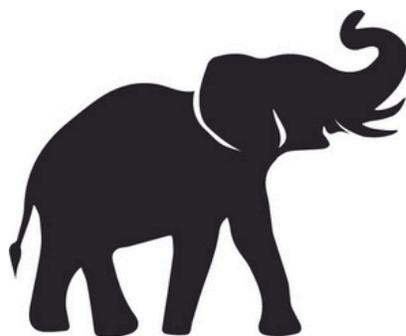
respect other's work and ideas by giving proper credit

**Reflective**

consider the benefits of being honest and turning in authentic work

**Knowledgeable**

understand the use of subject specific citation formats



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## PROCEDURES FOR ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

### FIRST OFFENSE

All instances of academic misconduct begin with a discussion between the teacher(s) and the student(s). Then the teacher notifies the family, the Library Media Specialist, and the Dean of Students regarding the incident. After parental notification, the following procedure will take place:

- Dean of Students determines appropriate loss of privileges
- Student demonstrates additional evidence of learning under supervision
- Library Media Specialist documents incident and student completes Academic Integrity Lesson
- Student writes a reflection related to the IB Learner Profile acknowledging the first offense and consequences for future offenses
- Parent/guardian signs this reflection which student returns and shares with the Library Media Specialist

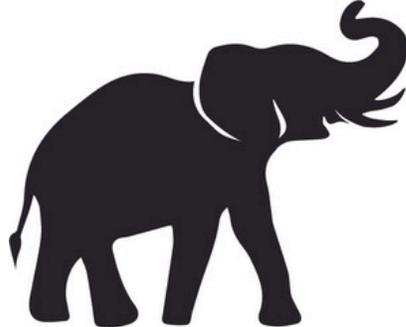
### SUBSEQUENT OFFENSES

For a subsequent offense in any class, the teacher notifies the family, the Library Media Specialist, the school counselor, and the Dean of Students

The student will:

- revisit the first offense reflection.
- receive academic consequences that will impact the student's grade in some way as determined by the teacher.
- lose privileges as decided by the Dean of Students.
- Referral to the Assistant Principal may be made by the Dean of Students.

*All instances of academic misconduct begin with a conversation between the teacher and student. The Library Media Specialist and Dean of Students document all incidents.*



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## DEAN OF STUDENTS

Mr. Bryan Muller

---

## SCSD CODE OF CONDUCT

Somers Middle School follows the Somers Central School District's Code of Conduct. Detailed information can be found on our district website under the Board of Education section:

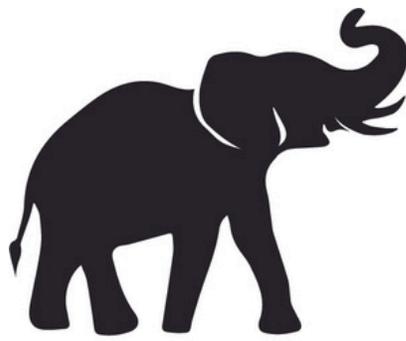
<https://www.somersschools.org/board-of-education/code-of-conduct>

---

At Somers Middle School, we feel that it is of paramount importance to address the social and emotional needs of all students and take a proactive approach to dealing with student behaviors and decision making.

In order to accomplish this:

- Each student has access to a certified school counselor who is available to them as needed and will stay with them throughout the course of their time at SMS.
  - Teachers have a common planning period where they meet regularly to discuss students' progress and to coordinate efforts to assist students as needed, academically and behaviorally.
  - Students' counselors and/or other specialists or administration join these planning sessions as needed.
  - During this common planning time, teachers are also available to meet with parents. This is an effective way to keep communication open and to develop plans that support the growth of each student.
  - All students will take part in our Tusker Experience program. The goal of the program is for students to make a connection with an adult in the building while discussing topics focusing on highlighting an MYP Learner Profile Trait each month.
-



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

---

### DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS

Somers Middle School condemns and strictly prohibits all forms of discrimination, such as harassment, hazing, intimidation and bullying on school grounds, school buses, and at all school sponsored activities, programs and events. The discrimination may be based on any characteristic, including but not limited to a person's actual or perceived:

- Race
- Color
- Weight
- National origin
- Ethnic group
- Religion
- Religious practice
- Disability
- Sex
- Sexual orientation, or
- Gender (including gender identity and expression).

**In order for the school to effectively enforce this policy and to take prompt corrective measures, it is essential that all targets and persons with knowledge of discrimination report such behavior immediately to a teacher or building administrator.**

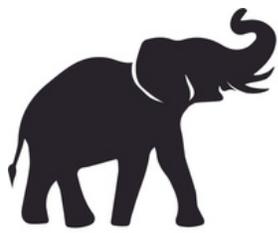
---

Somers Middle School Dignity Act Coordinator:  
Assistant Principal Kristen Mucciacciaro  
KMucciacciaro@somersschools.org  
(914)277-3399 ext 3203

---

**For more information on the Dignity Act, please see the Board Policy Document.**

**An amendment to include cyber bullying in the Dignity Act went into effect on July 1, 2013.**



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## INTERNET-ENABLED DEVICE POLICY

**BE PRESENT. STAY FOCUSED. LEARN TOGETHER.**

INSERT LINK TO DISTRICT POLICY HERE

### DO

- Power OFF all devices before 1st period
- Store cell phones and smart watches in your locker
- Leave them there until dismissal

### DO NOT

- Carry or use your cell phone or smart watch during the school day
- Keep devices on or visible at any time

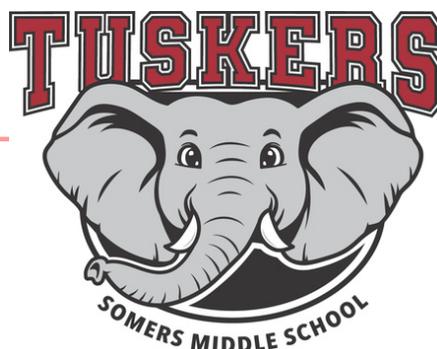
### If You Break the Rules

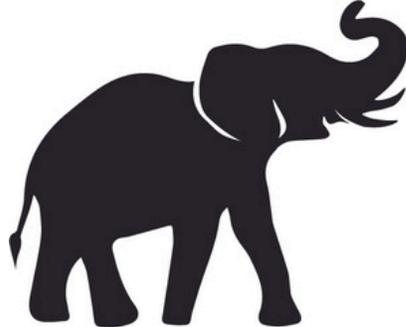
First Violation = Warning + pick up in office at dismissal

Second Violation = Parent must pick up device

Third Violation = Parent pick up device + lunch detention

 Fourth Violation = Progressive discipline





# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

The middle school recognizes the importance of good attendance for academic and social success. It is also important to get to school on time.

With this in mind the following policy is designed to promote regular attendance on the part of all of our students:

The assistant principal and school attendance clerk will meet regularly to examine attendance and tardy issues.

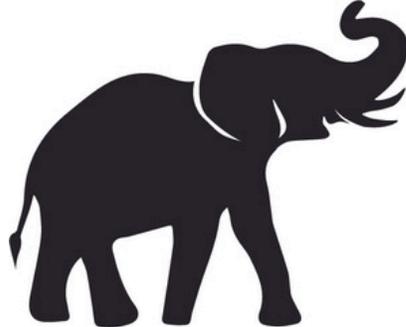
Any child who reaches **10 absences or tardies** will set in motion the following:  
Parental notification regarding excessive absences by letter.

A child who reaches **20 absences or tardies** will set in motion the following:  
Parent will meet with an administrator to address the issue of school attendance to develop a plan for improving attendance.

if absences continue, a referral to the appropriate social services agency will follow. If a student is late to school 3 times without a note from the parents a warning letter will be sent home. A note can be an email to our attendance clerk.

### EARLY DISMISSAL

If a student needs to leave SMS before the end of the regular school day, a note from the parent must be brought to the Vestibule the beginning of the school day. At this time the student will get a pass (to show the teacher) with the time of the early dismissal on it. The child will meet the parent at the security vestibule.. All parents must go to the Vestibule with their driver's license/state issued photo ID to sign the student out before the student can leave the building. A student will not be dismissed early from school without a written parent request. Please allow time for your child to be paged from their classroom and retrieve their belongings.



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

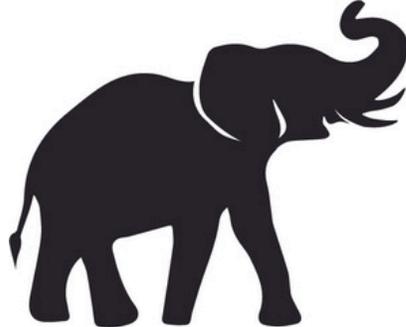
## ATTENDANCE POLICY (CONTINUED)

### EXTENDED VACATIONS FROM SCHOOL

There are times when students are absent from school because of extended vacations. We discourage this practice because nothing can replace the on-going instruction that occurs within each class.

When such absences are unavoidable, to lessen the overall impact on a student's progress, teachers will do their best to provide the student with assignments in advance. Students should also check Schoology to keep up to date with their classwork.

<b>SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL HAS ESTABLISHED THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS:</b>	
<b>PARENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The parent must contact the school guidance counselor and the attendance office in writing if he/she must take the child out of school.</li><li>• Parents are responsible for supervising the completion of all assigned student work by the return date.</li></ul>
<b>STUDENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students must recognize that these assignments may differ from those originally assigned. all missed tests and projects will be completed in a timely manner.</li><li>• Students should sign up for WIN sessions with teachers when returning for review and questions</li></ul>
<i>It is our firm belief that extended absences should be avoided. However, if absolutely necessary, the above guidelines have been developed to ensure as much continuity in a student's progress as possible.</i>	



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## ATTENDANCE

[SMSATTENDANCE@SOMERSSCHOOLS.ORG](mailto:SMSATTENDANCE@SOMERSSCHOOLS.ORG)

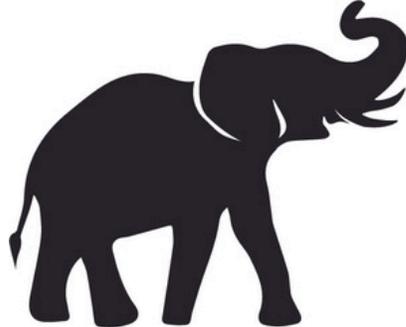
### ABSENCE

Regular attendance at school is not only a key to academic success, it is also required by New York State law. When a student is absent, however, parents should contact Mrs. Cindy Esposito at 277-3399, ext. 3003. When they return to school, students must bring a note explaining their absence to Mrs. Esposito in the main office. Parents may also use our attendance e-mail. The e-mail will fulfill the absence note requirement.

Schoolwork that is incomplete due to an accepted absence can be made up in the time allowed by the individual teacher.

Please remember that it is necessary to call the absentee phone line on each day that your child is absent from school, unless you have discussed the situation with the school nurse or Mrs. Esposito about an extended absence.

<b>EARLY ARRIVAL</b>	<b>LATE ARRIVAL</b>
Students arriving at school between <b>7:45 a.m. and 8:10 a.m.</b> (and not involved with the before school programs) should be dropped off in the lot between SIS and SMS and report to the cafeteria or library.	A student arriving to school <b>late (after 8:26 a.m.)</b> should report directly to the front Vestibule, sign in, and be issued a pass allowing them into their class. They must be accompanied by their parent or have a written note explaining the reason for lateness, or they may not be admitted to class until we have reached their parent.



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## CAFETERIA POLICIES

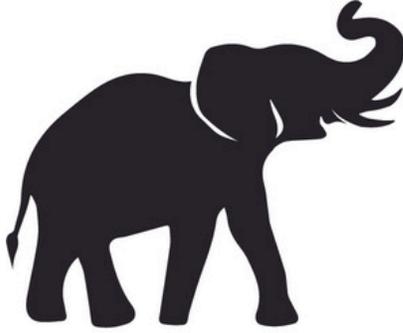
The cafeteria is open for breakfast from 7:45 -8:15 a.m. The price is \$1.75 for breakfast; our full lunch price is \$3.25. A la carte offerings are available for lunch, as well as a salad bar.

Students eat lunch with students in their grade level. Students are urged to help keep our cafeteria a clean, inviting place. Classes are in session across the hall so quiet is requested outside the cafeteria.

**An interactive menu will be available each month on the student meals page of the district website.**

### RULES FOR THE CAFETERIA

1. Students must go to lockers before coming to the cafeteria.
2. Students must arrive at the start of the lunch period.
3. All student must enter the cafeteria first and wait to be called to line up.
3. Show courtesy and respect to the lunchroom staff. They are here to assure your safety and make sure you follow the rules of the cafeteria.
4. Students must purchase their own lunch.
5. Children are never allowed to “charge” snacks when there is no money available in their accounts. Children are allowed to charge a meal in emergencies, but are expected to repay the charge as soon as possible.
6. Wait your turn in line. No cutting allowed.
7. Sit down while eating.
8. All food must be eaten in the cafeteria - you may not bring food out to recess.
9. Dispose of all remaining food and paper materials in the garbage cans provided. Recycle when appropriate.
10. Bring your jacket with you on cold days. You will **not** be allowed to go back to your locker.
11. In order to go to the library, music room, any classroom, or guidance department, you must present a pre-signed pass to the teacher on duty in the cafeteria.
12. Students are responsible for having the tabletops and floor under the table clean before leaving the cafeteria.



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## TRANSPORTATION POLICIES

When riding on district buses students are expected to follow the same rules of conduct that apply when they are in school. For the safety and well-being of all passengers, mature behavior is essential on school district buses.

In order to permit a child to take a different bus to visit a friend, we must receive a bus permission note from the sending parents. The following is a sample of what the note should contain:

BUS PERMISSION SLIP

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

I GIVE PERMISSION FOR MY CHILD (YOUR CHILD'S NAME) TO VISIT (OTHER STUDENT'S NAME).

THEY WILL BE TAKING BUS # \_\_\_\_\_ AND GETTING OFF AT (BUS STOP STREET NAME).

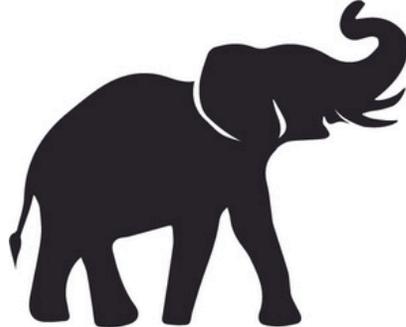
(VISITING PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE)

**\*THIS NOTE MUST BE INITIALED AT THE FRONT VESTIBULE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE DAY. STUDENTS WITHOUT A NOTE WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON A DIFFERENT BUS.\***

---

### LATE BUSES

Late buses are available Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday after school so that students may stay for extra help, join clubs, and participate in intramural activities. Students may also stay after for Homework Help in the library. This is a supervised work space and not a place to hang out after school. Late buses depart from the middle school at approximately 4:15 p.m. and bring your child to a stop in your area (not necessarily your stop).



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## HEALTH OFFICE

---

A student who does not feel well during the school day must get a pass from his or her teacher to go to the school nurse. The nurse will contact a student's parent if he or she needs to go home or to a doctor. Students may not contact their parents via cell phone.

Students may not bring any medicine to school, including Tylenol, Advil, or Aspirin. If medication must be administered during school hours or if emergency medication must be kept on hand at the school, parents must personally bring the medication to the Health Office, and a medication authorization form signed by parent and physician must accompany the medication.

## ESSA

---

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides New York State with an opportunity to leverage significant federal resources in support of New York State's commitment to providing equity, access, and opportunity for students.

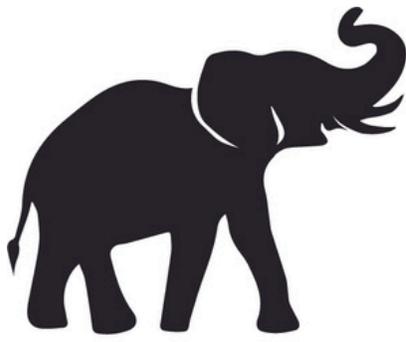
The SCSD receives Title funds to help support students and their teachers who participate in Academic Intervention Services in order to improve their academic progress.

Please visit the New York State Education Department website to learn about how to proceed should you have a concern or complaint about your child's access to services that may be partially funded by a Title I grant.

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Parents can use the following link to access important information regarding teacher certification: <https://eservices.nysed.gov/teach/certhelp/search-cert-holder>. This site provides a convenient way to search for and verify teacher certification status and respond to any related inquiries.

---



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## ACADEMIC INFORMATION

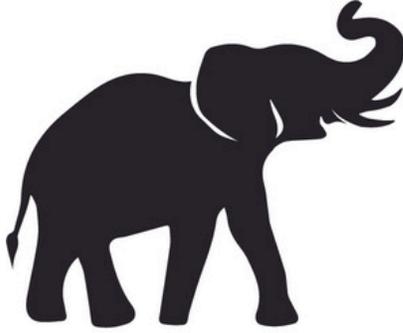
---

### REPORT CARDS

Report cards are available through Parent Portal in December, March and June. A notification will be sent via Parent Square at the end of the Trimester letting parents know to log in to view final averages using Parent Portal.



Schoolology allows students to communicate, access course materials and calendars, receive and hand in assignments, and take assessments. All classes in Somers Middle use this platform. If you are looking to support your student at home, please create a parent account and see what engaging activities your child is participating in!



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## LOCKERS

Each student will be issued a locker with a combination. Problems with lockers should be reported to the Main Office. Students should never give their combination to others. Students are urged to maintain neat, orderly lockers. **Stickers and other semi-permanent markings are not permitted.** They are reminded that SMS lockers remain the exclusive property of Somers Middle School.

**Each locker is in good working order and opens and locks properly using the assigned combination.**

**Locker numbers and passcodes may be accessed on Infinite Campus.**

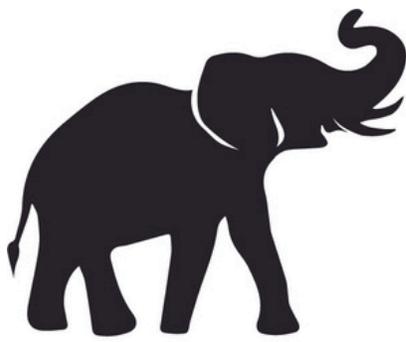
Each student agrees to the following:

- Maintain their locker and take responsibility for any damages sustained to the inside of the locker, including graffiti.
- Understand that she/he will be charged the cost of repair for any damages to the inside of the locker
- Keep his/her locker in good working condition and avoid any charges by:
  - NOT sharing his/her locker combination with another student. Each student is responsible for his/her own locker.
  - NOT probing the locking mechanism with pencils or items as this damages the lockers breaking or inserting anything into the locking device that will keep the locker from locking properly.
  - NOT changing lockers with another student without permission.
  - Immediately reporting any locker problems to an adult.

---

## LOST AND FOUND

The Lost & Found is located in the cafeteria. Small items like jewelry, eyeglasses, wallets, etc. are turned in at the Main Office. All items found on district school buses are turned in to the SMS Lost & Found. Larger items are kept in a bin in the cafeteria, which is emptied monthly and donated to charity.



**SOMERS  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## STUDENT LIFE AT SMS

---

At Somers Middle School, there are many ways you can be involved in school beyond your daily classes.

Please visit the Student Life section on our website often for an up to date list of clubs, sports, and activities.

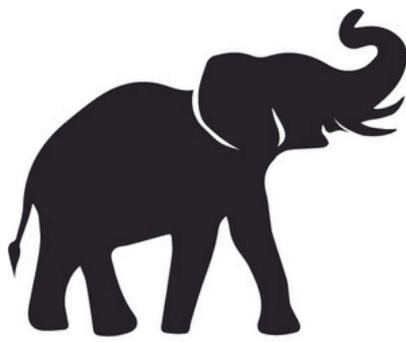
<https://sms.somersschools.org/student-life>

Not sure what activities to join? Take a look at the various options available and speak to your teacher to learn more!

**WATCH FOR UPDATES ON OUR SMS SCHOOLOGY PAGE**

**Student Life - Somers Middle School**

 somersschools.org



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

NJHS serves to recognize those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

### Scholarship

Students must have a cumulative GPA of 88 or higher.

### Service

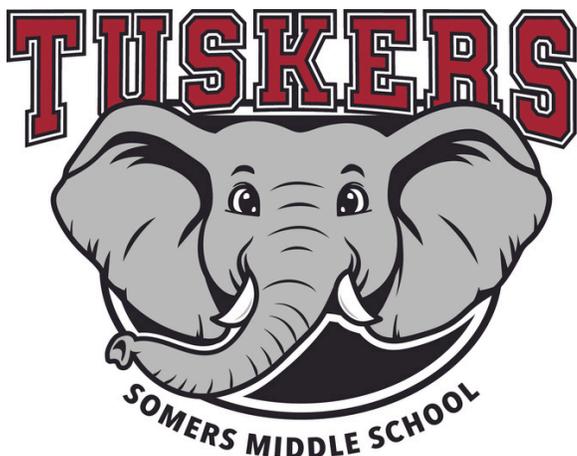
This involves voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation.

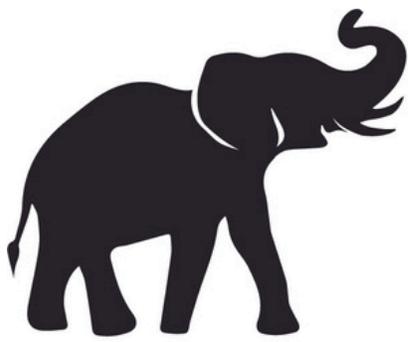
### Leadership

Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, and idea contributors. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

### Character

The student of good character is cooperative; demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability; shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others; and generally, maintains a clean disciplinary record. (No Level 3 infractions as per the SCSD Code of Conduct – see attachment)





# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## STUDENT RECOGNITION – TUSKER

**T:** Team Player

**U:** Understanding Differences

**S:** Student Skills

**K:** Kindness

**E:** Effort

**R:** Respect and Responsibility

We strongly believe that SMS is a great place to learn because of the wonderful students and staff we have in our building. Our students are thoughtful and reflective individuals who come to school every day with a sense of purpose and belonging. In order to further this, our students have developed what it means to be a TUSKER

Through our daily interactions and our Students of the Month and STAR programs, being a TUSKER will be honored and promoted on a daily basis.

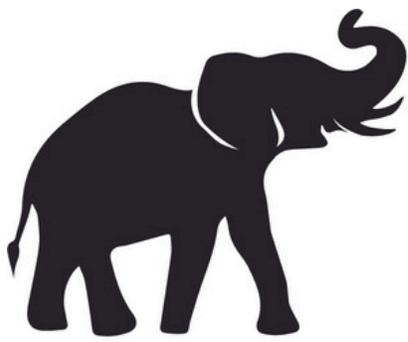
## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Students are recognized by their teams throughout the year for demonstrating the attributes of the MYP Learner Profile. Each month focuses on a different Learner Profile Trait that is highlighted in our Advisory program. Students who are recognized for exemplifying the Learner Profile of the month will receive a certificate and have their picture posted on the bulletin board and projection screens in the building.



Catch-a-STAR is a program to help recognize positive behaviors in SMS students. STAR stands for Students That are Role Models. Throughout the year staff members nominate students who are caught doing something special that helps make SMS a better place. These students are awarded a certificate, have their names read on the morning announcements, have their names added to the Counseling Center bulletin board, and are given a STAR pen.

The Catch-a-STAR program is the school's way of saying "thank-you" for doing something beyond what is expected.



SOMERS  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

# TEAM TUSKERS MENTORING

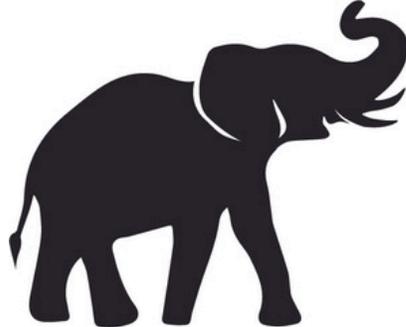
---

All SMS students are invited to participate in TEAM Tuskers Mentoring. This program provides students with additional adult support. Research has shown that adolescents who receive support from three or more non-parents adults find greater success in school. In this age group, students are often facing unique challenges, and our mission is to provide support to any student who can benefit from the friendship and life experiences of their mentor.

The program pairs SMS students with caring adults within the community. These students meet with their mentors for one hour per week during the school year, and all meetings take place in SMS in our dedicated mentoring room. During their time together, mentees and mentors have access to games, art supplies, puzzles, and sports equipment. Students can meet with their mentor before school, during lunch or after school.

Mentors have been fully screened and trained and have the ability to communicate with their mentees openly and without judgement. They possess strong listening skills and have a sincere desire to be personally involved with the youth of our community.

Please contact your school counselor, if your child is interested in participating.



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

## VISITORS

All visitors to the Somers Middle School are required to sign in at the security Vestibule and show their driver's license to obtain a visitor's badge. The badge must be worn for the duration of the visit. All visitors to the school (parents, community members, salespersons, etc.) should be clearly identified for the safety of our students, faculty, and staff. SMS staff has been instructed to request that any visitor without a badge return to the Vestibule.

## PARKING

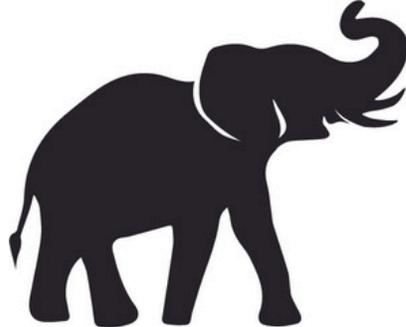
Parking at SMS is extremely limited. All visitor parking spaces are located in the parking lot between SIS and SMS.

Morning drop-off is in the parking lot between SIS and SMS.

Afternoon pick-up is in the driveway by the lower parking lot near the auditorium/cafeteria entrance.

Parents picking up students at Parent Pick-up at the end of the school day must line up single file in the driveway along the curb by the lower parking lot and wait for the student to come to them. Please follow the directions of our security, staff, and SRO to ensure safety.

**PARENTS SHOULD NOT PARK IN THE LOWER PARKING LOT WHILE  
WAITING FOR THEIR STUDENT TO BE DISMISSED.**

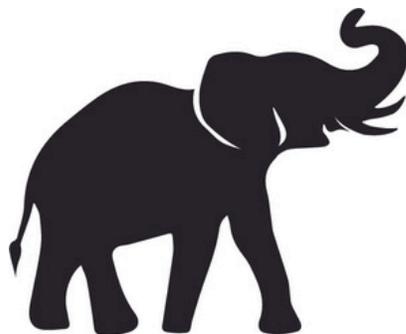


# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

SITUATION	CONTACT	SITUATION	CONTACT
<b>I need general information (i.e., permission slip).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Classroom Teachers</i></li> <li>• <i>Guidance Counselor</i></li> <li>• <i>Main Office</i></li> </ul>	<b>I don't feel well or I need to take medication.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Classroom Teachers</i></li> <li>• <i>Nurse</i></li> </ul>
<b>I have questions about my academic work or my grades.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Classroom Teachers</i></li> <li>• <i>Guidance Counselor</i></li> </ul>	<b>I would love to join a club.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Classroom Teachers</i></li> <li>• <i>School Counselor</i></li> </ul>
<b>I could use help with a problem in the cafeteria or on the playground.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Guidance Counselor</i></li> <li>• <i>School Psychologist</i></li> <li>• <i>SEL Interventionist</i></li> <li>• <i>Cafeteria Supervisor and Monitors</i></li> <li>• <i>Dean of Students</i></li> <li>• <i>Assistant Principal</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I feel worried about my family, friends, or myself.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Classroom Teachers</i></li> <li>• <i>School Counselor</i></li> <li>• <i>School Psychologist</i></li> <li>• <i>SEL Interventionist</i></li> <li>• <i>Assistant Principal</i></li> <li>• <i>Principal</i></li> </ul>
<b>I have a question about school procedures or policies.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>School Counselor</i></li> <li>• <i>Clerical Team</i></li> <li>• <i>Dean of Students</i></li> <li>• <i>Assistant Principal</i></li> <li>• <i>Principal</i></li> </ul>	<b>I need help resolving a problem with a friend or another student.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Classroom Teachers</i></li> <li>• <i>School Counselor</i></li> <li>• <i>SEL Interventionist</i></li> <li>• <i>Dean of Students</i></li> </ul>
<b>I need to discuss an issue on my bus.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Bus Driver</i></li> <li>• <i>School Counselor</i></li> <li>• <i>Dean of Students</i></li> <li>• <i>Assistant Principal</i></li> </ul>	<b>I have a note to be dismissed early or to go home with a friend.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Vestibule</i></li> </ul>



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## NEWSLETTER/COMMUNICATION/WEBSITE

Our website is [sms.somersschools.org](http://sms.somersschools.org).

We try to keep you posted on long-term assignments, changes in rules or procedures, upcoming events in the school and community, educational issues, field trips, school closings, special meetings and workshops. From time to time an important event or issue must be communicated to parents immediately. **In these cases a text or email will be sent via parent square.**



ParentSquare



ParentSquare

## SCHOOL CLOSINGS

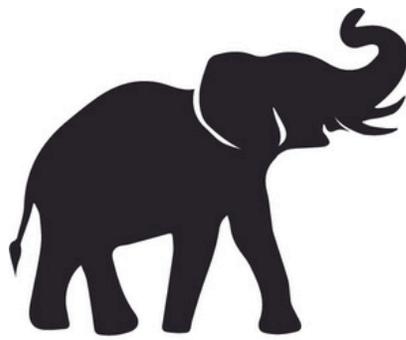
WHEN WEATHER CONDITIONS OR OTHER EMERGENCIES OCCUR TO PREVENT OR DELAY THE OPENING OF SCHOOL, OR CREATE THE NEED FOR AN EARLY DISMISSAL, ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL BE MADE VIA **PARENT SQUARE**. PARENTS WILL RECEIVE CALLS AND/OR TEXT MESSAGES VIA THE APP

WHEN AN EARLY DISMISSAL IS CALLED FOR SMS, THE CHILDREN WILL BE DISMISSED AT

**11:30 A.M**

PARENTS SHOULD MAKE ARRANGEMENTS AND INSTRUCT THEIR CHILDREN AS TO WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT THEY ARE RETURNED HOME EARLY FROM SCHOOL.





# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

---

*Forward in Excellence*

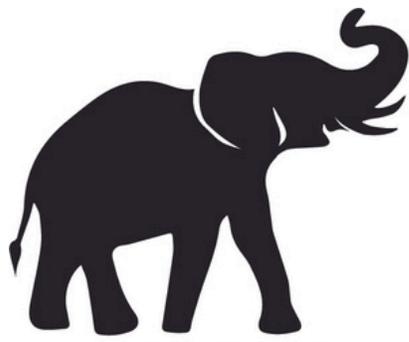
## OUR PARENTS GET INVOLVED!

Parents play a key role in the overall educational program at SMS and are welcome partners on behalf of all students. If you are interested in joining the SMS PTA or SEPTA please contact them as they are always happy to welcome new members.



The Somers Tuskers Arts Rising Stars (STARS) shall exist to support and advocate the performing arts department and to seek support and participation from our district and community.

For more information please visit:  
<https://www.somersschools.org/families/stars>



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

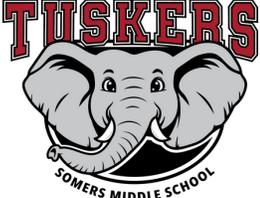
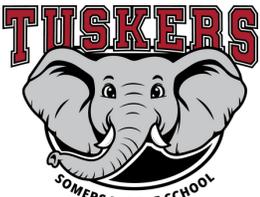
*Forward in Excellence*

## MODIFIED SPORTS & INTRAMURALS

All SMS students may play intramural sports a few afternoons a week throughout the school year.

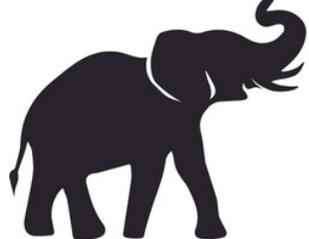
A modified sports program is available to 7th and 8th grade students, introducing them to competitive school sports.

**A student who is absent or arrives at school later than 12:00 will not be eligible to participate in any modified sports that day.**

Girls' Modified Sports	Track & Field Field Hockey Volleyball 
Boys' Modified Sports	Track & Field Ice Hockey Cross Country Wrestling 
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Intramurals</b></p> <p>FALL: soccer, two-hand touch football and cooperative games          WINTER: basketball and indoor soccer.          SPRING: whiffle ball, kickball and cooperative games.  <i>Days usually vary during the seasons due to gym availability and weather. Students do not need to sign up.</i></p> 	

THERE ARE SHUTTLE BUSES AFTER SCHOOL THAT TRANSPORT ATHLETES TO SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL AND REIS PARK FOR PRACTICES, AND TO OTHER SCHOOLS FOR COMPETITIONS.

**ONLY PARTICIPANTS IN THE SPORTS PROGRAM MAY RIDE THE BUSES.**



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE LATE BUSES THAT TRANSPORT STUDENTS, BUT NOT TO THE REGULAR BUS STOP. THEY LEAVE SMS AT 4:05 P.M. (T.W.TH)

### **Academic Triathlon**

The club has two teams that compete in meets with other local districts. There are three events at each meet. In one event students show their knowledge of current events, history, social issues, language, and math through a jeopardy-style trivia round. Another event involves students creating and performing a five-minute skit.

### **Art Club**

This club offers students a bi-weekly opportunity to enjoy the creative process. Students may work independently with their favorite art material or participate in a variety of group activities. Students are welcome to come on a regular basis or drop in throughout the year.

### **Computer Club**

This club involves students from all grade levels. Students work on a variety of computer projects utilizing a wide range of applications.

### **Stage Crew**

This club involves students from all grade levels. Students work to design, build, and paint the set for the school musical production. The crew will also work backstage during the show

### **Drama Club**

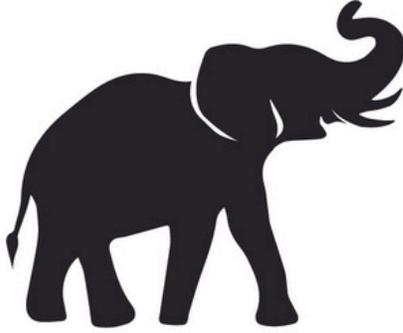
Drama club is open to all students! Drama Club is for students interested in learning about the aspects of musical theater. This includes stage terminology, acting skills, singing and movement which culminates in a Spring production. All meetings take place after school in the auditorium. Students should expect to rehearse 1-4 times per week, depending on their role.

### **Maker Club**

Maker Club is for students who enjoy using their creativity to design and build inventions that solve real-world problems. Students will participate in hands-on activities that teach them to think like engineers. If you enjoy having fun, working with others, using your imagination, and supporting your school then the Maker Club is for you.

### **Middle School Mentor Program**

The Middle School Mentor Program connects 8th graders with 6th graders to influence positive interactions, socialization, and a sense of belonging while limiting social isolation within the school environment. Once a week during 6th grade lunch 8th grade mentors create meaningful connections through games and conversations with 6th graders. Our goal is to empower and inspire all participants to thrive while building lasting friendships that contribute to a more inclusive and compassionate society



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE LATE BUSES THAT TRANSPORT STUDENTS, BUT NOT TO THE REGULAR BUS STOP. THEY LEAVE SMS AT 4:05 P.M. (T.W.TH)

### Performance Arts Clubs:

#### **Fife & Drum Band**

Fife and Drum consists of middle and high school percussionists and fife players. Please note that the percussion section fills up quickly, but we are always accepting fife players!! The fife is like the recorder and the flute, is simple to learn, and is a lot of fun! We will prepare traditional and patriotic music for the Somers town Veterans Day parade, Memorial Day parade, and other events throughout the year. Tuesday mornings at 7:35am. October-November AND April-May

#### **Jazz Band**

Jazz Band consists of wind/brass instruments, keyboard, guitar, bass (electric or upright), and percussion. We will prepare grade-appropriate jazz music to be performed at the winter and spring concert, along with a few other school events. All instrumentalists in good standing with the performance ensembles at SMS are encouraged to join. This is a performance based, non-graded class that includes the learning of jazz history, style, and improvisation. Tuesday mornings before school at 7:35a. January 14-May 14.

#### **Chamber Orchestra**

Chamber Orchestra is an enrichment group which prepares advanced string orchestra repertoire for performances in the school and greater community. This is a performance based, non-graded club that will challenge your string playing.

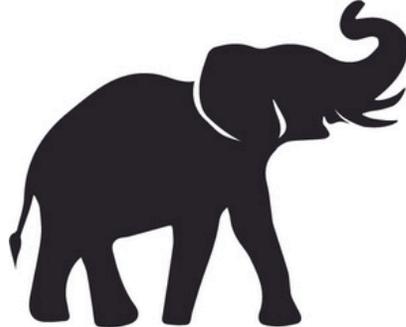
#### **Rockestra**

All instruments are welcome to join. Rockestra learns and performs non-traditional styles of music (anything outside of the classical music world). Students create their own cover bands and learn and arrange songs by ear. This is a performance based, student-driven opportunity to learn new styles of music.

#### **Advanced Choir**

Advanced choir is an auditioned group that will meet on Wednesdays before school, from 7:35 – 8:10 AM. The group is open to EVERYONE who loves to sing.

**Bell Choir:** Love to sing?! The Bell Choir is open to all SMS students who are interested in joining. Our purpose is to spread holiday cheer throughout our school and community and even go on a bell choir tour! We sing while playing mostly holiday carols on the hand bells. The bells are very easy to learn and lots of fun! Tuesday mornings at 7:35am. November 12-December 10



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

PLEASE NOTE: THERE ARE LATE BUSES THAT TRANSPORT STUDENTS, BUT NOT TO THE REGULAR BUS STOP. THEY LEAVE SMS AT 4:05 P.M. (T.W.TH)

### Performance Arts Clubs:

#### **All-County Prep**

The All-County festival is a concert comprised of students from all districts in Westchester County. Every fall, WCSMA (Westchester County School Music Association) asks teachers to nominate exemplary students from their building to take part in this experience. Students will attend two after school rehearsals, and then a final performance.

#### **NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) Prep**

At solo festivals, students are given a performance evaluation that involves playing a graded solo from the NYSSMA Manual, playing scales and sight reading. All NYSSMA registration is done through the student's school music program. Please look for more information in January.

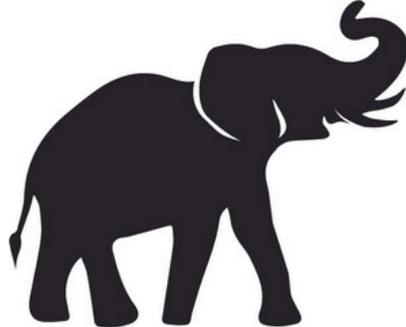
Meetings are by appointment either before school or during lunch periods, January – April.

#### **STARS**

The Somers Tuskers Arts Rising Stars (STARS) shall exist to support and advocate the performing arts department and to seek support and participation from our district and community.



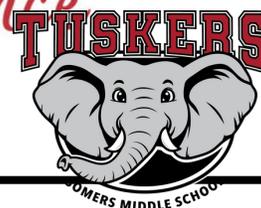
- Your membership will pay for new initiatives and special programs that support the performing arts.
- Your membership will also entitle you to have your name displayed in the program at every school event.



# SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

*Forward in Excellence*

## CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES



### **Service Club**

The Service Club members work to help people not only in our community but anywhere there is a need. The Service Club works through out the year to support a variety of organizations. Our members work together on projects to make our community a better place in which to live.

### **Student Council**

Student Council is open to all students in grades 6, 7, and 8. Our purpose is to promote unity while respecting individuality, diversity, and fostering leadership at SMS. Our goal is to strengthen student involvement and participation in artistic, academic, and athletic activities by building a strong student community that promotes positive behavior, school spirit and being a TUSKER. We develop committees to help volunteer and plan events for our school community.

### **Technology Club**

Students from all grades work together to create many projects such as CO<sub>2</sub> cars, model bridges, model gliders, etc. The club meets on Tuesdays in room 101 and 102 until 4:00 p.m.

### **Science Olympiad**

Science Olympiad is like a mini tournament where students design, build, or participate in competitions. Science Olympiad encourages students to get involved and work as a team. Emphasis is placed on active, hands-on group participation.

**Ski Club:** Students work to organize and participate in several local ski outings.

### **Yearbook**

Yearbook will meet early in the school year to set up the schedule for production deadlines. Students will have the opportunity to work on yearbook during lunch and/or team time with advance approval. Occasionally, by grade level, students may need to stay after school

### **Tusker Tribune Club**

The Tusker Tribune is Somers Middle School's Student Written Online Newspaper. It is published weekly and is open to any aspiring SMS student reporter. School-related stories, original artwork and cartoons, and creative writing of any kind are all welcome. Parents and students can access current and past issues of the Tusker Tribune by clicking on the "Activities" tab under "Student Life" on the Somers Middle School website homepage.