

Spotlight

Back-to-School Edition

August/September 2023

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The mission of the Southwestern Central School District is to develop students' potential for positive contributions to society as self-sustaining individuals.

To accomplish this mission, the administration and staff will be models in the pursuit of excellence and will provide appropriate learning environments which encourage respect for self, others, school and community.



**Southwestern
Central School
District**

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

A Fresh Start



It's been a busy summer at Southwestern Central School District! Fresh blacktop at the high school entrance (above) is one of many campus improvements. We also hosted a kids' volleyball camp (left) and New Teacher Orientation (below) in August.





SWCS Board of Education 2023-2024

Mr. Kurt Gustafson,
President
Mr. Richard Hartmann,
Vice President
Mr. Edward Brooks
Mr. Troy Durnell
Dr. Elizabeth Laczi
Mr. Correy Miller

Student members: Declan
Kennedy & Connor Young

The Board of Education
meets in the Board Room at
the Middle School building
unless noted otherwise, on the
second and fourth Tuesdays
of the month. Meetings begin
at 6:00 p.m.

BOE SCHEDULE

Regular meetings: Sept.
19, Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Dec. 12,
Jan. 16, Feb. 13, March 12,
April 17, May 14, June 11

Work sessions: March 26
and June 25

Social Media

Visit the Southwestern
Central School website at
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,

Nothing compares to the
anticipation of a new school year
and all the wonderful things that
accompany a fresh start. Excitement
is at an all-time high on campus
as we prepare for the 2023-2024
academic year at Southwestern
Central School District.

July and August were packed
with events and
opportunities, with
significant improvements
and upgrades happening
at the middle/high school
complex. In addition, we
enjoyed a well-attended
Summer Enrichment
Program featuring
themed activities along
with various summer
opportunities for students of
all grade levels, including a
kids' volleyball camp.

We also welcomed more than a
dozen new employees during New
Teacher Orientation in August.

In addition to professional
development and onboarding, our
athletic teams have been practicing
at the Charles A. Lawson field and
we are looking forward to kicking off
the fall sports season.

Southwestern CSD is committed to
continuing to support our students'
social-emotional health with a focus
on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

We continue to monitor the effects
of the COVID-19 pandemic on our
students' learning and overall well-
being.

I am committed to ensuring all
our students and staff feel like they
belong and know they are valued
members of our Trojan family.

This edition of The Spotlight is
chock-full of valuable back-to-school
information for our Trojan
families. I hope you will
take the time to read it in
the spirit of preparing for
a successful kickoff to the
new school year.

In addition, I urge
our families to fill out
and submit the Free
and Reduced Meals
Application included
in this newsletter. Your
participation helps ensure

all our students receive a delicious
and nutritious breakfast and lunch.

Please don't hesitate to reach
out to me at (716) 484-1136 or
mdonahue@swcsk12.org with
questions.

I look forward to another great year
with all our Trojans!



**MAUREEN
DONAHUE**

Sincerely,
Maureen Donahue,
Superintendent of Schools

Southwestern CSD Contact Numbers

Superintendent Maureen Donahue	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 Molly Moore	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

Dear Southwestern Students & Families,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year! We are excited to welcome everyone back into the building for another engaging, fun-filled year of learning. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and was able to relax and enjoy the nice weather. We strive to make every student feel like they belong and are part of the Southwestern family. We also value each child's uniqueness and work to help support their growth as individuals and learners.

This July was spent with some of our students attending the Summer Enrichment Program. We spent the summer dancing, looking at the stars in the planetarium, enjoying a pancake breakfast, and ended with a pool party, frozen treat, and much more. Thank you to the students and staff who helped make yet another summer a success.

As we look to the new school year, we will keep our families informed to the best of our abilities. The Trojan Tribune newsletter will continue to be sent regularly. There will also be updates on the Remind app, the district website, through our mass notification systems, and letters and flyers. If you are not receiving the newsletter, Remind notifications, or mass notifications and would like to, please call the office and let us know.

CURRICULUM

To better meet the New York State Computer Literacy Standards, students in grades 1-5 will



A Southwestern Central School District student attends the Operation Safe Stop initiative at Chautauqua Mall in April 2023.



**KAITLIN
RING**

receive guided keyboarding lessons. These lessons will take place once in a six-day cycle.

SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE

This year, we will operate in a similar schedule to last year.

TRANSPORTATION

Students who rode the bus last school year will automatically be enrolled to ride the bus again this school year. Universal pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students in need of transportation will need to either call the Transportation Department to register at 716-763-8391 or online at www.swcsk12.org. If your child did not ride the bus last year, but needs to this year, or there has been a change in address, please notify the Transportation Department.

Please be at your bus stop 10 minutes early for the first few days. After the first week, the bus route will become more established, and a regular pick-up/drop-off time will be determined.

If there are changes to your child's transportation, please call the office as soon as possible or send a note with your child. Transportation modifications cannot be accommodated after 1:30 p.m.

NEW STAFF AT SWES

We want to welcome the new staff members to our building and SWES family:

- Miss Constantino will be joining us in one of our new Special Education classrooms.
- Mr. Yachetta will be joining us in Physical Education.
- Mrs. Mason will be the Special Education teacher in our new S.C.I.S. Classroom.
- Mrs. Waite will be the General Education teacher in our new S.C.I.S. Classroom.
- Mrs. Bardo will also be joining us full-time in Occupational Therapy in the district.
- Miss Mackowiak will be joining for Speech Language Pathology in the district
- We have also hired many new paraprofessionals this year!

VISITORS

Our No. 1 goal 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

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will have opportunities throughout the school year to volunteer for classroom parties and field trips. Parents/guardians **MUST** be board approved to enter the school as a volunteer. If you are not on the board approved list or are unsure if you are on it, please call the office. If you are not an approved volunteer and want to be, please apply in the elementary office. The process for board approval takes time, so please complete these in a timely fashion to ensure they are cleared by the date of volunteering. Also, families will be invited to various celebrations, concerts, and other events. Thank you for your understanding and support in working to keep everyone at SWES safe.

THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

We are excited to welcome students back for the first day of school on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. Students may be dropped off starting at 8:40 a.m. and can wait in the main entrance until 8:50 a.m. Students picked up at the end of the day by a parent/guardian or approved adult will be dismissed at 3:15 p.m. Students riding the bus will be dismissed at 3:20 p.m.



Photos courtesy of Shelly Phillips

The annual 5th Grade Science Fair is one of the most well-loved traditions at Southwestern Elementary School. Our Trojans wait all year to display their projects, demonstrate what they have learned and answer visitors' questions.

OPEN HOUSE& BUS RUN

The open house for UPK and Kindergarten students will be Thursday, August 31, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Any students signed up for transportation can ride the bus with their family. Please contact the bus garage by August 25, 2023, to sign up for the Open House Bus Run. Students may bring their school supplies to keep in their classroom during this event.

The Open House for grades 1 to 5 is scheduled Thursday, September 14, 2023, from 6:00

to 7:30 p.m. We look forward to meeting fresh faces and reconnecting with returning students and their families!

As we prepare for the 2023-2024 school year, our goal at SWES is to continue to grow relationships with students, families, and our community. The importance of these relationships has a profound effect on student success.

"When parents are involved at school, the performance of all the children at school, not just their own, tends to improve. The more comprehensive and well planned the partnership between school and home, the higher the student achievement" (Henderson, Berla, 1995, p. 14-16).

We appreciate your support in your child's education and look forward to a productive and engaging school year. Please contact our office with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Kaitlin Ring
Elementary Principal



A Message from the Elementary Assistant Principal

Dear Southwestern Community,

I am excited to be starting my first full school year as the assistant principal for Southwestern Elementary School! Having started in this role back in April 2023, I was lucky enough to work with all the amazing students and teachers in our school and help them bring a close to the 2022-2023 school year. We look forward to cultivating an inclusive and restorative learning environment for all our students in the coming year.

I live in Jamestown with my son, Myles, who will be attending Kindergarten at SWES this year. Outside of school I enjoy reading, writing, home improvement projects, bingeing the occasional Netflix series, Buffalo Bills games, and, most important, spending time with family and friends.

My journey to becoming an administrator began in Randolph, where I completed high school and lived for many years. I attended Jamestown Community College then transferred to the University at Buffalo where I majored in history. From there I began my master's program in Adolescence Education at St. Bonaventure University, gaining teacher certification in 7-12 social studies, and have since held many different educational roles. I started as a substitute teacher until I became a teaching assistant at Gowanda High School in the In-School Suspension room. While there I was lucky enough to teach eighth-grade US History as a long-term substitute, where I focused on cooperative learning and team teaching with my English Language Arts counterpart.

This led to an opportunity to teach Global History at WNY P-TECH in Dunkirk via Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, with a focus on hands-on and project-based learning. As an E2CCB employee I also spent time working in the Out of School Suspension program and a 12-1-1 Special Education program at Brocton Middle



Southwestern Elementary School's new assistant principal, Julia Kinney, is pictured with her son, Myles.

School. After Brocton, I took my first step into administration as a staff development specialist with E2CCB and enjoyed leading the ELA and eSports programs. It was with great pleasure that I accepted the position of assistant principal at SWES and I look forward to many, many more school years sustaining and growing the many opportunities we offer our students in this district.

As an educator, I believe strongly that education can be the turning point in a student's life. With a supportive academic

program, a person can change the circumstances of their life for the better and thus contribute positively to their community. This will look different for all our students, and we will continue to work tirelessly to ensure our students have every opportunity to learn and grow into the best version of themselves. During the 2023-2024 school year our focus will be on implementing restorative practices in the common areas of the elementary school, with the goal of improving student behavior. This means areas such as the cafeteria, playground, and hallways will be the focus for improved student behavior. We are also expanding our daily morning meetings in each classroom by focusing on restorative conversations and providing resources to teachers to streamline this process. This will allow strong relationships between teachers and student to be built and sustained throughout their time in our district.

I can't wait to kick off the school year with our amazing staff, supportive community, and stellar student body.

Sincerely,
Julia Kinney
Assistant Principal



A Message from the Middle School Principal

Happy summer, everyone!

I cannot believe how fast time is flying by this summer! We have been hard at work with the summer school/enrichment programs. Classes have been filled with awesome educational ideas, which cultivate creativity while incorporating English Language Arts, science, and math. In addition, we offered arts and crafts, iMovies, and makerspace during these enrichment opportunities. This has been happening through an improvement project of the Southwestern Middle School office, Pupil Services, and Business/District offices; all located within SWMS.

We have also been preparing for a positive start to the 2023-2024 academic year at SWMS. We are putting some finishing touches on preparations both inside and out, and our classrooms and hallways are looking great for the beginning of another wonderful year. The maintenance staff have done a fantastic job ensuring the building is clean and ready for action.

UPGRADES AT SWMS

This year also marks a major construction project in the middle school. Major renovations will be done on the building's first and second floors. Please excuse our dust as we work through this remodel for most of this school year. We are very proud of our building and want to make the learning environment as nice as possible for everyone at SWMS.

SAFETY FIRST

The safety of your children is our No. 1 priority. We are meeting and updating safety plans and the code of conduct to ensure our school is safe for everyone who walks through the doors. We have also been discussing how to further promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) within our district. It is especially important to understand every student and person in our school community matters and needs to be recognized. Differences and unique qualities must be accepted and the idea of "celebrating and educating" is going to be a reoccurring theme moving forward.

As mentioned before, safety in school is a top priority. The main focus is to protect the health, safety, and overall well-being of our students, staff, and school community. I want to assure you we share a common interest -- the development and education of your children. I believe in working together to provide the best educational opportunities for our kids at Southwestern. While providing rigorous education,



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RYBICKI**

our staff works very hard to ensure everyone is safe every day at Southwestern. There are trainings and many drills throughout the year to ensure we are prepared for any unforeseen and unfortunate circumstance. This means all of us within our educational community are responsible for safety. We all take a part in this charge to be safe. It is also the responsibility of people coming onto campus to obey the rules of traffic and our campus traffic patterns for parking, pick-up, and drop-off zones. If you are dropping off students, please follow the school procedures to ensure a safe process remains in place.

STAYING INFORMED

To ensure high quality education and safety, the requirement for constant communication is a necessity. We plan to communicate to our families via several avenues. At times, we will use our School Messenger system, which can send mass emails, texts, and voicemails to an entire group or the entire district. Teachers and staff will also use Remind, the TEAMS app, emails, and the phone to reach out. I believe it is essential to be on the same page to serve our kids and the Southwestern community the best we can.

TECHNOLOGY

We will continue to work toward our goals of preparing our students to be college and career ready. We believe the technology we are utilizing will aid our instructors with teaching, as well as our students with learning. School computers are being re-imaged for student use and the tech upgrades are important for the continued use of Microsoft 365 software. Once again, we will be sending forms your way to complete regarding the district's acceptable use policy (AUP) terms and agreement. These policies, forms, and regulations are also available on the district website under "general information." This was completed last year, but needs to be updated and addressed annually. It is important to mention that unacceptable usage of district computers may have consequences. As stated before, this technological piece is vital to so many aspects of our education, not just instruction, but also continuous communication.

This said, as part of the SW educational community, every child in District has, or will receive, a 5-user license for Office 365. This means home

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computers and privately-owned devices may have this capability installed on them, if desired. Office 365 is a cloud-based system, which saves everything generated in the "Southwestern cloud" and is kept safely within the system. We feel this is a great tool toward advancement to a more enriching digital educational community. I hope you all take advantage of this, as it may give you some powerful applications for home use.

It is important to add we believe it is everyone's responsibility to promote positive digital citizenship. This refers to anything from cyber etiquette to proper social media behavior. The concepts of these online behaviors are not new and will be modeled and taught within our curriculum. This shift will not only help us be better information consumers in the digital world, but also help us improve test scores and achievement. More information about computer usage and care, as well as digital citizenship, is forthcoming. We believe this is a very positive and progressive movement to assist us in staying ahead of the curve of improvement. Please remember good digital citizenship must be emphasized at home as well as at school. One goal at Southwestern is to promote a holistic student socially, emotionally, and physically, beginning with proper digital etiquette.

SCHEDULING

Grades 7 and 8 will follow a different schedule this year. Core classes will follow a block schedule and all specials will be in the traditional 40-minute schedule. Grade 6 will also remain in a traditional 40-minute period schedule. As in the past, we will continue to follow an A/B schedule. We are confident this will be a positive change to our instructional practices.

Students will be able to enter the school at 7:30 a.m. on school days. They will remain in the main front hall or the cafeteria until the 7:35 a.m. bell. At that time, they will go to their lockers and report to their Educational Enrichment Time class by 7:45 a.m. Attendance will be taken in the first class, which is EET. Any student who arrives after 7:45 a.m. will be considered tardy and must report to the attendance office before going to class. All students are to be in their seats by 7:45 a.m. and ready to start the school day. The end of the school day remains the same at 2:40 p.m. After-school time is offered every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday until 3:30 p.m.

STAFF CHANGES

- Amber Hasson is the new secretary in the middle school office.



Crochet Club, led by library media specialist Mary Zdrojewski, meets at Southwestern Middle School's MakerSpace. Students are pictured displaying dog toys they made from old T-shirts.

- MaryJo Andalora is our new business/computer teacher.
- Nicole Marino is our new physical education teacher.
- Kyler Majka will be our new health and physical education teacher; he is starting his career at Southwestern later this fall.
- Patrick Connor is the new Grade 7 science teacher, as Miss Cichocki is moving into the high school.
- Our new reading teacher is Breanna Summers
- Jack Felton is moving to Team 7 as a Special Education consultant teacher.

I am excited to begin the school year with these incredible educators. Please welcome these awesome people to our Trojan family!

A WARM WELCOME

Open House this year is following a different format, as well. We are in conjunction with the high school for an Open House on Wednesday, August 30, 2023, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Three food trucks are setting up on the campus to accommodate anyone who chooses to purchase food. In my opinion, this is a positive change in schedule to what we have done in the past.

On behalf of the entire Southwestern community, we are looking forward to a safe and productive school year for our student population. Enjoy the remaining days of summer recess!

Yours in Trojan Pride,
Richard Rybicki
Middle School Principal

A Message from the High School Principal

Dear Southwestern CSD students, parents, and community members:

It is my pleasure to welcome students, faculty, and staff back for another great year at Southwestern High School.

Our vision is to attain academic excellence through programs that meet the present and future needs of students, while providing a safe and nurturing community that celebrates diversity, practices mutual respect, and values parents as learning partners in laying the foundation for life-long learning. In order for our students to attain academic excellence we all need to work united to support the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of our students.

In an effort to ensure our students are life-long learners it is our goal to see 100% of our students graduate from Southwestern with the knowledge, citizenship, communication/collaboration traits, and ability to use problem solving and critical thinking to transition to adulthood. Our graduates need to be able to adapt to an ever-changing, fast-paced world with confidence and commitment to create their own career pathway to success. Priorities for the school year are:

ACADEMIC RIGOR

We offer a wide array of curriculum choices for students to challenge themselves academically while also pursuing elective courses to balance a rigorous and robust high school experience. Students can pursue coursework in the following academic areas: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. Elective courses include: Art, Business, Health/Physical Education, Technology, Band, Choir, and Orchestra.

We have additionally made a commitment to offer enhanced S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) opportunities to prepare students for continued education or the world of work. We also share a commitment to provide academic support for students who have an Individualized Education Plan or receive 504 accommodations. We offer many Advanced Placement courses through the College Board as well as College Connection Courses available via Jamestown Community College. Many students also choose to pursue a Career & Technical Education-endorsed diploma via Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES at the Hewes Educational Center in Ashville.



SCOTT COOPER

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

The high school is supplementing its academic programming for “at-risk” students in the building. We are seeing an increasing number of students who are at-risk of graduating, making poor decisions, disenchanted with school, make school a low priority, and/or exhibit “out of the norm” behavior. Our Alternative Learning Program (ALP) is designed to support students across all learning domains.

ATTENDANCE

We have experienced an increase in the number of days our students have missed during the school year. Students are missing school or arriving late to school without an excuse. School tardiness was the most frequent behavior resulting in disciplinary consequences for the previous school year. Students need to be in attendance daily and arrive to school promptly. The New York State Department of Education requires students to attend school minimally 85% of the scheduled time. Students who fail to regularly attend school may lose the ability to earn course credit due to excessive absences. Please contact the attendance office on the day your child is unable to attend and when your child returns to school provide our attendance office with an excuse documenting the absence.

CELL PHONES

We are adding stricter guidelines to our Cell Phone Policy for the 2023-2024 academic year. A growing percentage of our students have a difficult time knowing where to draw the line on their cell phone use. A majority of students are too dependent on their cell phones and are not engaged as active learners in our classrooms. Cell phones are prohibited to be used in bathrooms, locker rooms, the Structured Learning Center, and during emergency drills. Upon entering a classroom, all high school students will be required to store their phone in a designated “cell phone garage.” Phones will be kept in the cell phone garage for the duration of class time.

DATA-DRIVEN INSTRUCTION

We are seeing achievement gaps in student performance as we transition from the COVID-19 pandemic to endemic status. Research shows that

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small group targeted instruction will help us close achievements gaps. We are adding Academic Intervention Services, Study Skills, and encourage students to seek additional help after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 p.m. to 3:25 p.m. We also use an Academic Eligibility Report every two weeks to determine if a student needs additional remediation if they are at-risk of failing any course at the high school.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

A vital districtwide initiative currently underway is Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Southwestern CSD is involved in the process to develop policies that advance DEI as priorities. It is our mission to create and sustain a safe, nurturing, and engaging learning environment for ALL students. It is our goal that ALL students see stronger academic outcomes as a result of our commitment to DEI.

DRESS CODE

We are amending the SWCS Dress Code policy and it is our belief the students and their parents/guardians hold the primary responsibility in determining the student's personal attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items (e.g. backpacks, book bags). Our schools are responsible for assuring the student attire, hairstyle, jewelry, and personal items do not interfere with health or safety.

Students must wear:

- Top (shirt, blouse, sweater, sweatshirt, tank, etc.).
- Bottom (pants, shorts, skirt, dress, etc.); and
- Footwear.

Students may not wear clothing, jewelry, or personal items that:

- Are pornographic, contain threats, or that promote illegal or violent conduct such as unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or paraphernalia.
- Illustrate hate group association/affiliation and/or use hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or other protected groups.
- Intentionally show private parts. Clothing must cover private parts in opaque (not able to be seen-through) material.
- Cover the student's face to the extent that the student is not identifiable except clothing/headgear worn for an ethnic, religious, or medical purpose.

• Include hats, visors, or hoods during the school day. These articles of clothing are prohibited except for ethnic, religious, or medical purposes.

- Demonstrate gang association/affiliation.

INVOLVEMENT

Students will benefit from the best educational experience an active involvement in our many different opportunities. We encourage all students to participate in one or more of the following extra-curricular and co-curricular activities: Athletics, School Musical, eSports, Student Council, Envirothon, Allies for Diversity, Impact, Spanish Club, French Club, School Newspaper, Key Club, Ski Club, and National Honor Society to mention only a few possibilities.

REGENTS EXAMS

Throughout the past two school years students were able to benefit from a Special Appeal to Earn Diplomas with a Lower Score on a NYS Regents Examination with a score between 50-64% on the Exam under special appeal. NYSED has removed this Special Appeal and all general population students must successfully pass NYS Regents exams with a 65% or greater score to meet graduation requirements.

TROJAN PRIDE

As a school we must continually commit to the development of the whole child, and provide various levels of supports for all students across academic, social, and emotional domains. When our students experience satisfaction derived from their own achievements, the achievements of team or a group of individuals with a shared vision for our students will have a rewarding experience we like to call "Trojan Pride."

In closing, Southwestern CSDt is a special place due to combined efforts of our school community working in collaboration to provide diversified learning opportunities and extra-curricular experiences so all students have an opportunity to explore and find their niche as they prepare for higher education or the world of work. Our faculty and staff members are excited for our students' return on September 6th. We look forward to your continued partnership as we strive to make Southwestern Central School District the best place to educate children!

Sincerely,
Scott Cooper
High School Principal

A Message from the High School Assistant Principal

Dear Trojans:

As we embark on a new school year, I want to take this opportunity to welcome back all members of the Southwestern Central School District community. I hope all of you had an enjoyable and relaxing summer and are ready to get back into your school routines. At the high school, all of us are excited to welcome our students back into our hallways and classrooms beginning Wednesday, September 6, 2023.

It is our goal to help ALL students feel welcomed, connected and part of the Southwestern Family. In that spirit, we will do our best to keep open communication with our families. We are always available to answer questions or address concerns. We will do our part to ensure our students have the tools necessary to be successful as we provide high-quality teaching and learning. We also encourage all of our parents/guardians to take an active role in their child's education. Studies continually point to the many



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benefits of parent/guardian involvement in their child's educational experience. Taking an active role in the education of your child has never been more important! Thank you for your role in this process.

Additionally, we will place a continued emphasis on Trojan Kindness. Simply put, Trojan Kindness means treating ALL people you come into contact with, as you would wish to be treated yourself (often referred to as the "golden rule"). Striving every single day to live by this concept is not just critical for success in high school, but also for the world beyond our walls.

As a final thought for our students, I encourage each of you to take ownership of your learning and to be the change you each wish to see in this world. I'm excited to begin the 2023-2024 school year and look forward to seeing each of you soon.

Respectfully,
Mr. Matthew Kindberg
Secondary Assistant Principal

A Message from the Technology & Curriculum Office

Dear Trojans:

Welcome back from the Technology and Curriculum Office! We hope you had a great summer and took time to rest and get ready for a new school year. The Technology and Curriculum departments are doing all we can to support students, teachers, and families to return to school.

Our Technology Department is working on updating all student laptops and iPads. We are also making sure our teacher devices are ready to go when our students return. All teachers that requested a Smart Board will have it up and ready to go before the start of the school year. Mr. Aaron Rounds has offered several training sessions for teachers to learn how to use the Smart Boards. We will continue to use Remind this school year; and will also send out digital newsletters periodically. Our technology department is continuing to work on data privacy and security. We will focus on teaching students and staff about techniques to keep info secure and private. One of our goals in our tech plan is to continue offering technology trainings and informational sessions for our students, teachers, AND families! If you ever want to learn more about how to use the tech our schools are using, please email me at mmoore@swcsk12.org

Many of our teachers "went to school" this



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MOORE**

summer. For example, some of our teachers learned about updated science investigations and assessments with Dr. Michael Jabot from The State University of New York at Fredonia. About 50 teachers from SWCS partnered with Jamestown Public Schools teachers for a two-day Kagan Cooperative Learning workshop. Our elementary math Professional Learning Committee will work with a math expert to continue our dive into math instruction. Teams from each building attended a school safety workshop in July. We also discussed

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in our curricula. We welcomed 13 new instructional staff at New Teacher Orientation from Aug. 1-2, 2023.

Our staff return August 30, 2023, to kick off our first three Staff Development Days. Some activities include the Science of Reading, school safety for all students, department time to evaluate student data, and addressing the social and emotional needs of students.

We look forward to our students back in our schools! Be well, Trojans!

Regards,
Molly Moore
Director of Instructional Services

Lakewood Library Update



Lakewood Memorial Library is located at 12 West Summit Street.

What a difference a year makes! Freshly painted, newly carpeted and powered by an all-electric HVAC system that maximizes the savings realized by our solar panels, Lakewood Memorial Library is back better than ever!

Our reconfigured building has been humming with activity since our grand re-opening last fall, and community members have returned to the library in full force.

Hey teens, need a place to conquer those tough assignments or dive into your latest obsession? We've created an all-new Teen Area, a perfect hotspot for reading, studying, socializing, and playing games. Charging stations are on deck, so your devices will be powered up and ready for action! Keep an eye out for our super cool events, like game nights where you can show off your skills and conquer virtual worlds, and movie nights complete with snacks that will keep you fueled and ready for fun.

Thanks to community support during Give Big CHQ, our Junior Reader's Area has also undergone a delightful makeover, designed to captivate young minds and spark their creativity. From vibrant, cozy reading nooks to new computers to interactive learning stations, we've created a space where children can learn and explore.

But wait, there's even more excitement on the

horizon! We are thrilled to announce the upcoming addition of a cutting-edge MakerSpace to our library. Get ready for a journey into the world of innovation and creation. The centerpiece of our MakerSpace will be a state-of-the-art 3D printer, a marvel of technology that allows you to bring your imagination to life. Whether it's crafting intricate models, designing unique creations, or experimenting with prototypes, our 3D printer will empower you to turn your ideas into tangible realities.

Our MakerSpace isn't just about 3D printing. It's a haven for innovation, offering a range of tools and resources for hands-on learning. From robotics kits to craft supplies, budding inventors of all ages can explore, experiment, and collaborate in an environment designed to nurture creativity and curiosity. Stay tuned for upcoming STEAM and Maker events and workshops that will inspire and ignite the inventor in you!

We're overjoyed to be taking these strides forward in enriching the library experience for our youngest patrons and all members of the community. We are here to support you, inspire you, and create a space where you can be yourself. To stay up-to-date on programming, visit www.lakewoodlibrary.org, email info@lakewoodlibrary.org, follow us on Facebook @LakewoodMemorialLibrary14750 or call us at 716-763-6234.

Use Our School Libraries from Home with Sora

Did you know students of Southwestern Central School District can access ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, and comic books anywhere using the Sora app?

Access our collection with these easy steps:

1. Download the Sora app for your device or visit soraapp.com.
2. Choose "Erie2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Boces."

3. Select "Southwestern Central School District."

4. Sign in through Classlink.
If you need help, contact any of our district School Library Media Specialists.

What's Happening in 2023-2024

SEPTEMBER 2023

4 Labor Day/no school
5 Superintendent's Day
6 First day of student attendance
13 HS Picture Day
14 ES Open House 6-7:30 p.m.
25 Superintendent's Day
25 Band/Orchestra Parent Meeting 7 p.m.
27 MS Picture Day

OCTOBER 2023

3 ES Picture Day
6 Emergency Go Home Early Drill
7 Homecoming Dance
9 Indigenous Peoples Day/no school
12 Title I Parent Informational Zoom meeting 6:30 p.m.
25 HS Picture Retakes
31 Trunk-or-Treat

NOVEMBER 2023

3 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences;
12:10 p.m. early dismissal
8 MS Picture Retakes
10 Veterans Day observed/no school
10 MS/HS end of 1st Quarter
16 ES Picture Retakes
17 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences; 12:10 p.m. dismissal
17 MS/HS Report Cards
22-24 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER 2023

1 ES End of 1st Trimester
7 5th grade Winter Concert 7 p.m.
8 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences;
12:10 p.m. early dismissal
11 Report Cards Gr. 1-5
13 HS Winter Concert 7 p.m.
14 Gr. 6 Winter Concert 6 p.m.
14 Gr. 7-8 Winter Concert 7:30 p.m.
22-31 Winter Recess

JANUARY 2024

1-2 Winter Recess continues
12 UPK application available
15 MLK Jr. Day/no school
23-26 Regents exams at HS
26 MS/HS end of 2nd Quarter

FEBRUARY 2024

2 UPK & K Report Cards
2 MS/HS Report Cards
7 Grade 8 Orientation 7-8 p.m.
19 Presidents Day / no school
20-23 Mid-Winter Recess
29 ES Book Fair

SEPTEMBER

Library Card Sign Up Month, Deaf Awareness Month, National Preparedness Month, Arts in Education Week

OCTOBER

National Principals Month, Bullying Prevention Month, New York State History Month, Fire Prevention Week, School Bus Safety Week, School Board Recognition Week, Halloween

NOVEMBER

Native American Heritage Month, Family Literacy Month, School Psychology Awareness Week, World Kindness Day, School Related Professionals Recognition Day, Parental Involvement Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

Computer Science Education Week, Special Education Day, Hanukkah/Kwanzaa/Christmas, World AIDS Day

JANUARY

National Mentoring Month, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, School Board Appreciation Month, School Resource Officer Day, MLK Jr. Day

FEBRUARY

Black History Month, Career & Technical Education Month, Children's Dental Health Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, School Counseling Week, Presidents Day

MARCH

Music in Our Schools Month, Reading Month, Women's History Month, National Nutrition Month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, National Professional Social Work Month, Social Work Week, St. Patrick's Day

APRIL

Autism Awareness Month, School Library Month, National Poetry Month, Assistant Principals Week, Student Athlete Day, School Librarian Day, Earth Day, School Bus Drivers Day

MAY

Mental Health Month, Military Appreciation Month, Children's Book Week, Teacher Appreciation Week, School Nurse Day, School Lunch Hero Day, Mother's Day

JUNE

Pride Month, Global Day of Parents, National Higher Education Day, Father's Day Juneteenth

MARCH 2024

1-8 ES Book Fair continues
1 UPK application deadline 4 p.m.
4 Kinder applications available
8 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences
12:10 p.m. early dismissal
13 Spring Band Concert Gr. 6-12
14 Battle of the Classes 6 p.m.
15 End of 2nd Trimester ES
19 Spring Choir Concert Gr. 6-12
7 p.m.
21 Spring Orchestra Concert Gr. 6-12 7 p.m.
22 Report Cards Gr. 1-5
28-29 Spring Recess

APRIL 2024

1-5 Spring Recess continues
12 MS/HS end of 3rd Quarter
17 ES Spring Pictures
17 Gr. 5 Chorus Concert 7 p.m.
19 MS/HS Report Cards

MAY 2024

2 5th grade Spring Band & Orchestra Concert 7 p.m.
8 MS Spring Pictures
9-17 Kindergarten Round-Up
14 Budget Hearing 6 p.m.
17 5th grade Spelling Bee
18 Prom
20 Top 10 Luncheon 12 p.m.
21 Annual Budget Vote & BOE Election 7-9 a.m. & 2-8 p.m.
22 Jr. Honor Society induction ceremony 7:30 p.m.
24-27 Memorial Day Weekend
28 NHS Inductions 7 p.m.
29 Trojan Triathlon
30 HS Pops Concert 7 p.m.

JUNE 2024

5 Gr. 5 Parent Orientation 7 p.m.
6 5th grade Science Fair 2 p.m.
6 MS Awards 2:50 p.m.
10 HS Scholarship Night 7 p.m.
13 ES Field Day/Flag Day
13 Senior Walk/Breakfast
13 Flag Day parade Gr. 6-8 bands
14-25 Regents Exams
16 End of 3rd trimester ES
19 Juneteenth / no school
26 End of 4th Quarter MS/HS
27 Baccalaureate 7 p.m.
28 ES report cards
28 Graduation 7 p.m.

Date Withdrew _____

F ____ R ____ D ____

2023-2024 Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals/Milk

To apply for free and reduced-price meals for your children, read the instructions on the back, complete **only one** form for your household, sign your name and **return it to the address listed below**. Call **(716) 484-1136** if you need help. Additional names may be listed on a separate paper.

Return Completed Applications to: **Southwestern Central School District**
600 Hunt Road
Jamestown, NY 14701

1. List all children in your household who attend school:

Student Name	School	Grade/Teacher	Foster Child	Homeless Migrant, Runaway
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐
			☐	☐

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR Benefits:

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

Name: _____ CASE #: _____

3. Report all income for ALL Household Members (Skip this step if you answered 'yes' to step 2)

All Household Members (including yourself and all children that have income).

List all Household members not listed in Step 1 (including yourself) **even if they do not receive income**. For each Household Member listed, if they do receive income, report total income for each source in whole dollars only. If they do not receive income from any other source, write '0'. If you enter '0' or leave any fields blank, you are certifying (promising) that there is no income to report.

Name of household member	Earnings from work before deductions <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Child Support, Alimony <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Pensions, Retirement Payments <i>Amount / How Often</i>	Other Income, Social Security <i>Amount / How Often</i>	No Income
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐
	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	\$ _____ / _____	☐

Total Household Members (Children and Adults)

*Last Four Digits of Social Security Number: XXX-XX- ____ - ____

 I do not
have a
SS# ☐

*When completing section 3, an adult household member must provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SS#) or mark the "I do not have a SS# box" before the application can be approved.

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this application before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all the information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that the information is being given so the school will get 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: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Home Address: _____

5. Ethnicity and Race are optional; responding to this section does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced-price meals.

Ethnicity: ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Not Hispanic or LatinoRace (Check one or more): ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native ☐ Asian ☐ Black or African American ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Island ☐ White**DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE – FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY**

Annual Income Conversion (Only convert when multiple income frequencies are reported on application)
 Weekly X 52; Every Two Weeks (bi-weekly) X 26; Twice Per Month X 24; Monthly X 12

☐ SNAP/TANF/Foster☐ Income Household: Total Household Income/How Often: _____ / _____ Household Size: _____☐ Free Meals ☐ Reduced Price Meals☐ Denied/Paid

Signature of Reviewing Official _____ Date Notice Sent: _____

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To apply for free and reduced-price meals, complete only one application for your household using the instructions below. Sign the application and return the application to Amee Kennedy, Central Registrar. If you have a foster child in your household, you may include them on your application. A separate application is not needed. Call the school if you need help: (716) 484-1136. Ensure that all information is provided. Failure to do so may result in denial of benefits for your child or unnecessary delay in approving your application.

PART 1 ALL HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE STUDENT INFORMATION. DO NOT FILL OUT MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION FOR YOUR HOUSEHOLD.

- (1) Print the names of the children, including foster children, for whom you are applying on one application.
- (2) List their grade and school.
- (3) Check the box to indicate a foster child living in your household, or if you believe any child meets the description for homeless, migrant, runaway (a school staff will confirm this eligibility).

PART 2 HOUSEHOLDS GETTING SNAP, TANF OR FDPIR SHOULD COMPLETE PART 2 AND SIGN PART 4.

- (1) List a current SNAP, TANF or FDPIR (Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations) case number of anyone living in your household. The case number is provided on your benefit letter.
- (2) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4. SKIP PART 3. Do not list names of household members or income if you list a SNAP case number, TANF or FDPIR number.

PART 3 ALL OTHER HOUSEHOLDS MUST COMPLETE THESE PARTS AND ALL OF PART 4.

- (1) Write the names of everyone in your household, whether or not they get income. Include yourself, the children you are applying for, all other children, your spouse, grandparents, and other related and unrelated people in your household. Use another piece of paper if you need more space.
- (2) Write the amount of current income each household member receives, before taxes or anything else is taken out, and indicate where it came from, such as earnings, welfare, pensions, and other income. If the current income was more or less than usual, write that person's usual income. **Specify how often this income amount is received: weekly, every other week (bi-weekly), 2 x per month, monthly. If no income, check the box.** The value of any childcare provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such child care or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care and Development Block Grant, TANF and At Risk Child Care Programs should **not** be considered as income for this program.
- (3) Enter the total number of household members in the box provided. This number should include all adults and children in the household and should reflect the members listed in PART 1 and PART 3.
- (4) The application must include the last four digits only of the social security number of the adult who signs **PART 4** if Part 3 is completed. If the adult does not have a social security number, check the box. **If you listed a SNAP, TANF or FDPIR number, a social security number is not needed.**
- (5) An adult household member must sign the application in PART 4.

OTHER BENEFITS: Your child may be eligible for benefits such as Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). To determine if your child is eligible, program officials need information from your free and reduced-price meal application. Your written consent is required before any information may be released. Please refer to the attached parent Disclosure Letter and Consent Statement for information about other benefits.

USE OF INFORMATION STATEMENT

Use of Information Statement: The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do not have to give the information, but if you do not submit all needed information, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced-price meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the primary wage earner or other adult household member who signs the application. The social security number is not required when you apply on behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and for administration and enforcement of the lunch and breakfast programs. We may share your eligibility information with education, health, and nutrition 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.

DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

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, audiotope, 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 (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or 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 civil 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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEAL APPLICATION FACT SHEET

When filling out the application form, please pay careful attention to these helpful hints.

SNAP/TANF/FDPIR case number: This must be the complete valid case number supplied to you by the agency including all numbers and letters, for example, E123456, or whatever combination is used in your county. Refer to a letter you received from your local Department of Social Services for your case number or contact them for your number.

Foster Child: A child who is living with a family but who is under the legal care of the welfare agency or court may be listed on your family application. List the child's "personal use" income. This includes only those funds provided by the agency which are identified for the personal use of the child, such as personal spending allowances, money received by his/her family, or from a job. Funds provided for housing, food and care, medical, and therapeutic needs are not considered income to the foster child. Write "0" if the child has no personal use income.

Household: A group of related or non-related people who are living in one house and share income and expenses.

Adult Family Members: All related and non-related people who are 21 years of age and older living in your house.

Financially Independent: A person is financially independent and a separate economic unit/household when his or her earnings and expenses are not shared by the family/household. Separate economic units in the same residence are characterized by prorating expenses and by economic independence from one another.

Current Gross Income: Money earned or received at the present time by each member of your household before deductions. Examples of deductions are federal tax, State tax, and Social Security deductions. If you have more than one job, you must list the income from all jobs. If you receive income from more than one source (wage, alimony, child support, etc.), you must list the income from all sources. Only farmers, self-employed workers, migrant workers, and other seasonal employees may use their income for the past 12 months reported from their 1040 Tax Forms.

Examples of gross income are:

- Wages, salaries, tips, commissions, or income from self-employment
- Net farm income – gross sales minus expenses only – not losses
- Pensions, annuities, or other retirement income including Social Security retirement benefits
- Unemployment compensation
- Welfare payments (does not include value of SNAP)
- Public Assistance payments
- Adoption assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Survivor's Benefits
- Alimony or child support payments
- Disability benefits, including workman's compensation
- Veteran's subsistence benefits
- Interest or dividend income
- Cash withdrawn from savings, investments, trusts, and other resources which would be available to pay for a child's meals
- Other cash income

Income Exclusions: The value of any childcare provided or arranged, or any amount received as payment for such childcare or reimbursement for costs incurred for such care under the Child Care Development (Block Grant) Fund should not be considered as income for this program.

If you have any questions or need help in filling out the application form, please contact:

Amee Kennedy, Central Registrar, (716) 484-1136



Southwestern Telephone Directory

Business Office.....484-1136
District Office484-1136
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
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CENTRAL
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PTO News

The Parent Teacher Organization of Southwestern Central School District is excited for another year of fun, including field trips, celebrations and supporting students and staff.

Attending PTO meetings is a great way to stay informed about school activities, volunteer opportunities and ways to support our school. The PTO helps pay for all classroom fieldtrips, occasional treats for teachers and staff, VIP folders for all students, agendas for fourth grade and fifth grade students, treats for Trojans during special events and more! All are welcome to join and there will be many opportunities to contribute.

2023-2024 MEETINGS

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month with some exceptions around holidays and breaks. We gather at 7:00 p.m. in the Maker Space above the elementary library, and we urge you to attend as many as possible. Meetings are scheduled September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13, January 10, February 14, March 13, April 10, and May 8.

JOIN US

If you are interested in volunteering for any PTO events or fundraisers that take place in the building during school hours, you must be approved by the Board of Education of SWCS. Applications are available via the elementary and district offices. Volunteer applications can be found online or in the elementary school office. Please check our Southwestern Elementary PTO Facebook page as well as the Parents of SW Elementary/Lakewood, NY page for more information and upcoming events throughout the year.

LEADERSHIP

- President – Ashley Zambotti
- Vice President – Andrea Haskell
- Treasurer – Kylie Ross
- Secretary – Tracy Weimer
- Fundraising – Theresa Willis

We wish you all a fantastic beginning to the 2023-2024 school year!