

Spotlight

Back-to-School Edition

August/September 2024

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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.



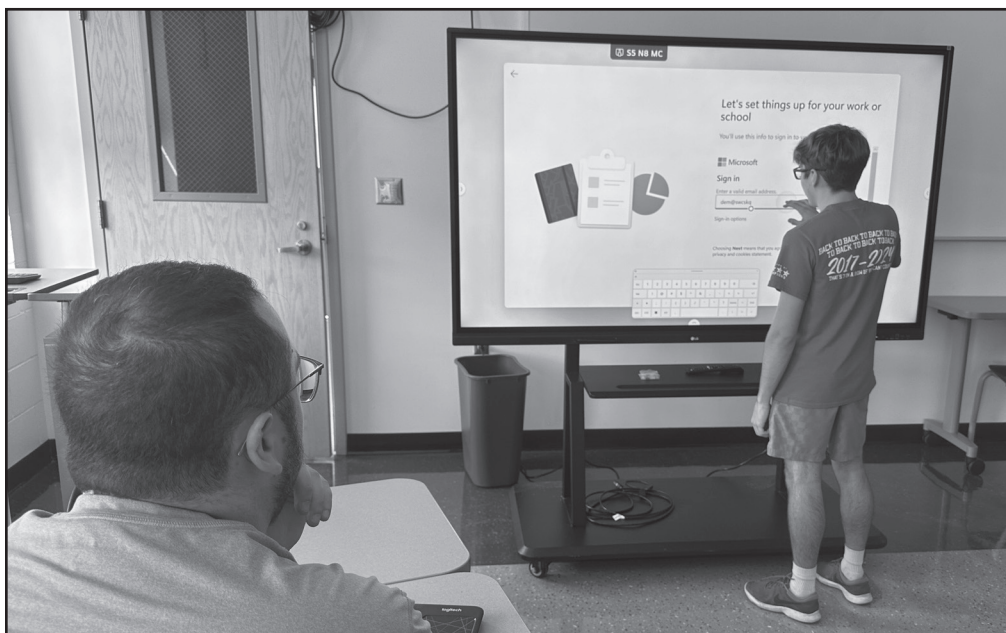
**Southwestern
Central School
District**

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

CAMPUSWIDE GLOW-UP



Numerous improvements await students and staff at Southwestern Central School District, where Capital Project work nears completion. Above: The exterior of the reconfigured high school cafeteria. Below: New math teacher Mr. Matthew Barton and senior Simeon Lewis demonstrate using a new Smartboard. Read more on Page 11.





SWCS Board of Education 2024-2025

Mr. Kurt Gustafson,
President

Dr. Elizabeth Laczi,
Vice President

Mr. Michael Carothers

Mr. Troy Durnell

Mr. Joshua Gesing

Mr. Richard Hartmann

Mr. Correy Miller

Student members: Mr. Connor
Young & Miss Lucy Brown

The Board of Education
meets in the Board Room at
the Middle School building.
Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

BOE SCHEDULE

Regular meetings: Sept.
17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17,
Jan. 21, Feb. 11, March 11,
April 8, May 13, June 10

Work sessions: March 25
and June 24

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,

Our campus has seen a flurry of
activity this summer as we prepare
to welcome our students back to
school on Tuesday, September 3,
2024.

Capital Project improvements
are continuing amidst Summer
Enrichment lessons, annual
maintenance projects led by our
Buildings & Grounds
Department along
with professional
development and
orientation opportunities
for students and staff. In
addition, we have been
onboarding new staff and
administrators.

This back-to-school
edition of The Spotlight
is loaded with helpful
information. We hope all
our families take some time
to read it in the spirit of preparing
for a successful kickoff to the new
school year. Friendly reminder that
ALL students of SWCS receive
free breakfast and free lunch every
school day at Southwestern.

It goes without saying that, as
always, I am looking forward to
working collaboratively with our
Trojan families this year to help
ensure the best educational
experience for all students. But as

many of you know, the 2024-2025
academic year is my final year in
education prior to retirement. In
this edition you will find information
about the ongoing search for a
new superintendent. I encourage
everyone to complete the "Thought
Exchange" survey (see page 3) or
visit our website for the link and
provide their input on the process.

I'm working hand-in-hand with our
Board of Education
to ensure a smooth
leadership transition.
Finishing my final year
at Southwestern is
bittersweet, but I am
approaching it with
the same passion and
commitment I brought
when I joined our Trojan
family in 2014.

Our students deserve
only the best from me – and
from all of us – and I know

this will be another triumphant final
year for all of us on Team Trojan.

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

Once a Trojan, always a Trojan!

Sincerely,
Maureen Donahue,
Superintendent of Schools



**MAUREEN
DONAHUE**

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

Superintendent Search

Dear Southwestern Central School District community:

Following Maureen Donahue's June 2024 retirement announcement, the Southwestern Board of Education spent time carefully reviewing options available to fill the vacancy in the Office of the Superintendent.

Our Board has appointed Dr. David O'Rourke to serve as our search consultant as we seek to hire an outstanding candidate as our next Superintendent of Schools. As we prepare for our students' return to school, we are seeking input from our school community in a number of ways.

The Board will be organizing stakeholder interview teams to assist with interviews of finalist candidates. These teams will conduct final interviews, and team members will be required to attend pre-interview training and all final interview dates. Information about these stakeholder interview teams will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

The search has been planned according to the tentative timeline below.

- Vacancy brochure published: By Friday, September 27, 2024
- Application deadline: Friday, November 8, 2024
- Dr. O'Rourke and his staff meet with Southwestern CSD interview team members: Monday, December 10, 2024
- Board of Education conducts confidential preliminary interviews: Tuesday, Wednesday and



Thursday, January 21-23, 2025

- Final interviews conducted by the BOE and interview teams: Tuesday, Monday and Wednesday, February 10-12, 2025
- Board meeting to appoint Superintendent of Schools: Prior to March 15, 2025
- New Superintendent to assume duties: On or about July 1, 2025

A Thought Exchange survey link is on the Southwestern CSD website for all community members (faculty, staff, parents, residents, students, and business owners) to provide input on the search for a new Superintendent. If for any reason you are unable to access the link, you may visit the Southwestern District Office for assistance.

The Thought Exchange survey link will be available until September 15, 2024; you can also access via the QR code at the top of this page. The Board will review all the responses to the Thought Exchange and we appreciate your input about the District's needs for the next Superintendent of Schools.

The Board of Education will provide updated information about the search process as it moves forward. Any questions from interested candidates or questions about the search process itself may be directed to Dr. David O'Rourke at dorourke@e2ccb.org or 1-716-549-4454, ext. 4029.

Respectfully,
Southwestern CSD's Board of Education

Parents As Teachers Program

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

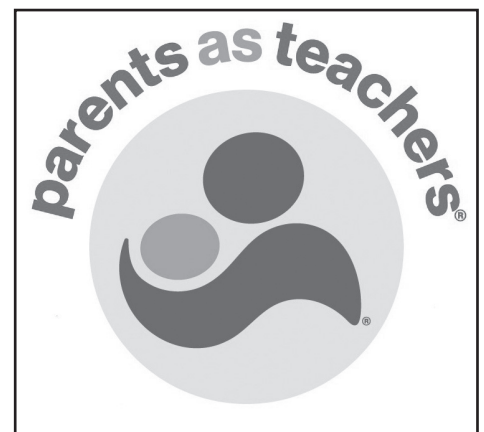
The Parents As Teachers program offers individualized, interactive early learning experiences for the young siblings of school-aged children. It is a free program for all families residing in the Southwestern Central School District.

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

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

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

FOCUS AREAS: Parent empowerment through parent-led child interaction, as well as developmental centered parenting



and family well-being.

Contact Bridgette at 1-716-988-0891 or email bwinters@swcsk12.org for more information.

A Message from the Elementary Principal

Dear Southwestern Students & Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! We are excited to have our Southwestern Trojans back in the building! We hope everyone had a fantastic summer and was able to get outside and enjoy time with family. We look forward to helping every child grow academically, socially, and emotionally this year.

July was spent with students attending the Summer Enrichment Program. These students spent the summer taking a trip to the Audubon, gazing at the constellations in the Planetarium, and we ended it with a summer bash, including water balloons and popsicles. Thank you for the donations to make this celebration possible! Lastly, thank you to the students and staff who helped make 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, via our mass notification systems, 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. Please be aware that teachers will answer messages within an appropriate timeframe and may have Remind office hours set.

CURRICULUM: As the district continues the Professional Learning Communities process, staff is working to make instructional decisions to best meet student needs.

SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE: SWES is operating on the same arrival and dismissal schedule as last year. However, a change has been made as we are transitioning from half-day UPK to full-day. UPK and the SCIS program will operate on the same schedule as grades K through 5.

TRANSPORTATION: Students who rode the bus last school year will automatically be enrolled to ride the bus again this school year. UPK and Kindergarten students in need of transportation will need to either call the transportation department to register at 1-716-763-8391 or register online on our district website. 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,



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RING**

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: Let's welcome the new staff members to our building and the SWES family!

- Assistant Principal Mrs. Peterson
- Fifth-grade teacher Miss Moss
- Mrs. Swan transitions to third grade
- We will have a new 8:1:1 Special Education teacher joining our team as well as a few new paraprofessionals!

VISITORS: Our No. 1 priority is the safety of our students and staff. Visitors will be limited to appointments only. Please call the office ahead of time to make an appointment at 1-716-664-1881. Parents/guardians 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!

START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR: We are excited to welcome students back for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 3. Students may be dropped off starting at 8:30 a.m. and can wait in the main entrance until 8:50 a.m. Students who eat breakfast will be allowed to enter the building at 8:35 a.m. to go to the cafeteria. 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.

As we prepare for this upcoming school year, our goal at SWES is to continue to engage all students in learning and work to help them achieve, with a focus on integrity, kindness, connections, and excellence. We look forward to a year filled with community engagement, learning, and fun-filled events.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the elementary office at 1-716-664-1881.

Thank you,
Kaitlin Ring
Elementary Principal

A Message from the Elementary Assistant Principal

Dear Southwestern Community,

I am honored to introduce myself as the new Assistant Principal of Southwestern Elementary. As we prepare for the 2024-2025 school year, I wanted to share a bit about myself and my commitment to our school community.

I reside in the Jamestown area with my husband, JJ, and my son, Trey. In my free time I enjoy reading, nightly walks with our dog, traveling, and spending time with family and friends.

My educational journey began at The State University of New York at Fredonia where I received my bachelor's degree in Childhood Inclusive Education with a middle school extension in English. I



**SARAH
PETERSON**

continued on at SUNY Fredonia to obtain my master's degree in TESOL, and I am now completing my advanced certificate in Educational Leadership at SUNY Fredonia.

Prior to becoming an assistant principal,

I was a sixth grade ELA teacher here at Southwestern, a 7/8 ELA teacher, and a

second-grade teacher. I have also served in other roles such as substitute teacher, coach, and teaching assistant.

I have a passion and love for working with children, and my goal is to foster a supportive, welcoming, and nurturing environment where students thrive academically, socially, and

emotionally. I look forward to joining the dedicated teachers and staff as we continue to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion as well as restorative justice practices. The implementation of the PLC process is another area which has led us to be focused and intentional, and I am excited to join in the collaborative efforts as we continue to grow and improve.

I am excited for the upcoming school year and the opportunity to work closely with students, parents, staff, and community members. I look forward to meeting you and working together to make this a successful and wonderful school year filled with fun and learning. Enjoy the remainder of summer break!

Sincerely,
Sarah Peterson
Elementary Assistant Principal

What's Happening in 2024-2025

SEPTEMBER 2024

2 Labor Day/no school
3 First day of student attendance
11 HS Picture Day
23 5th Grade Band/Orchestra
Parent Meeting 7 p.m.
25 MS Picture Day

OCTOBER 2024

3 ES Picture Day
10 Title I Parent Info Zoom 7 p.m.
11 Emergency Go Home Early Drill
12 Homecoming Dance
14 Indigenous Peoples Day/no school
23 HS Picture Retakes
31 Trunk-or-Treat

NOVEMBER 2024

1 Superintendent's Day/no school
7 MS Picture Retakes
8 MS/HS end of 1st Quarter
11 Veterans Day observed/no school
15 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences;
12:10 p.m. dismissal
15 MS/HS Report Cards
19 ES Picture Retakes
22 15 ES Parent/Teacher
Conferences; 12:10 p.m. dismissal
27-29 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER 2024

5 5th grade Winter Concert 7 p.m.
6 ES End of 1st Trimester
12 Gr. 6 Winter Concert 6 p.m.
12 Gr. 7-8 Winter Concert 7:30 p.m.
13 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences;

12:10 p.m. early dismissal
16 Report Cards Grades 1-5
18 HS Winter Concert 7 p.m.
23-31 Winter Recess

JANUARY 2025

1-3 Winter Recess continues
10 UPK application available
20 MLK Jr. Day/no school
21-24 Regents exams at HS
24 MS/HS end of 2nd Quarter
29 Lunar New Year/no school
31 Report Cards MS/HS

FEBRUARY 2025

5 Grade 8 Orientation 7 p.m.
7 UPK & K Report Cards
17 Presidents Day / no school
18-21 Mid-Winter Recess

MARCH 2025

5-14 ES Book Fair
7 Superintendent's Day/no school
7 UPK application deadline 4 p.m.
10 Kinder applications available
12 Literacy Night 6-7:30 p.m.
14 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences
12:10 p.m. dismissal
19 Spring Band Concert Gr. 6-12
20 Battle of the Classes
21 End of 2nd Trimester ES
25 Spring Choir Concert 6-12 7 p.m.
27 Spring Orchestra. Concert 6-12
7p.m.
28 Report Cards Gr. 1-5

APRIL 2025

11-18 Spring Recess

18 MS/HS end of 3rd Quarter
23 ES Spring Pictures
24 Gr. 5 Chorus Concert 7 p.m.
25 MS/HS Report Cards

MAY 2025

1 5th grade Spring Band &
Orchestra Concert 7 p.m.
7 MS Spring Pictures
8-16 Kindergarten Round-Up
12 Top 10 Luncheon
13 Budget Hearing 7 p.m.
17 Prom
19 NHS Inductions 7 p.m.
20 Annual Budget Vote & BOE
Election 7-9 a.m. & 2-8 p.m.
20 MS Pops Concert 6:30 p.m.
21 Jr. Honor Society induction
ceremony 7:30 p.m.
26 Memorial Day
28 Trojan Triathlon (raindate May
29)
28 HS Pops Concert 7 p.m.

JUNE 2025

4 Gr. 5 Parent Orientation 7 p.m.
5 MS Awards 2:50 p.m.
9 HS Scholarship Night 7 p.m.
13 ES Field Day & Flag Day Parade
16 Senior Walk/Breakfast
10, 17-25 Regents Exams
19 Juneteenth / no school
26 End of 3rd trimester ES
26 End of 4th Quarter MS/HS
26 Baccalaureate 7 p.m.
26 ES report cards
28 Graduation 7 p.m.

A Message from the Middle School Principal

Dear Students and Families,

I hope everyone has had a fantastic summer and I welcome you all back for the 2024-2025 school year! I am excited to begin my first year as part of the Southwestern school community.

I am joining the Southwestern Middle School family after spending the past 19 years as a physics teacher, athletic director, assistant high school principal, and coach at Fredonia High School.

Over the past few weeks, I spent a lot of time getting to know the ins and outs of SWMS and meeting the wonderful staff.

We finished a successful summer school program, offering ELA and science classes and enrichment opportunities in Makerspace, arts and crafts. Highlights include making pottery, stop-motion movies, and a field trip to the National Comedy Center. A big thank you to staff members Tina Clark, Aaron Emley, Jack Felton, Alexis Johnson and Mary Zdrojewski for providing our students with creative opportunities.

We have also been preparing for a positive start to the school year here at SWMS. The maintenance and custodial staff have done a fantastic job working around the construction and ensuring our building is clean and ready for action.

BUILDING UPGRADES: We have been finishing a major construction project at SWMS this summer. Highlights include finishing touches in the new main office, air conditioning in the third-floor classrooms, new windows throughout the building, and double doors at the SWMS main entrance. We are very proud of these upgrades and confident it will greatly improve the learning environment for all. We hope it helps foster a strong sense of pride in our school.

SAFETY & A SENSE OF BELONGING:

Providing a safe and welcoming environment for your children is our No. 1 priority. Our administrative team has updated our safety plans and code of conduct to ensure our school is safe for all students and staff. We will continue to promote diversity, equity and inclusion at SWMS. It is important to understand that every student, staff member and visitor matters and deserves to be recognized. Differences and unique qualities will be accepted and celebrated as we continue to advance inclusive and culturally responsive teaching and learning at SWMS.

Our focus is on the health, safety and overall well-being of our students, staff and middle school



**GREG
LAUER**

community. We share a common goal, which is the continued development and education of your child. I strongly believe in creating a partnership with parents, staff, and students to provide the best educational opportunities for every child. Our staff is focused on providing all students with a rigorous education while working hard to ensure all students feel safe and welcomed every day at SWMS. Students and staff will take part in training and drills throughout the year to ensure we are prepared for any safety issue that may arise. The addition of double

doors at our main entrance this summer will help regulate visitors being able to access our school daily. We all have a role in helping keep our campus safe for everyone. If you need to come to campus for any reason, please obey the rules of traffic and our traffic patterns for parking, pick-up, and drop-off zones for students. If you are dropping off students in the morning, please follow procedures and be patient to ensure all students and staff can enter school safely. If you need to enter SWMS, please come to the main entrance to be buzzed in by staff.

COMMUNICATION: To create and maintain an effective partnership between families and the school, constant communication is a necessity. We will be communicating in several ways to our school community. At times, we will use our School Messenger system, which can send mass emails, texts, and voicemails. Teachers and staff will also use Remind, the TEAMS app, emails, and phone calls to reach out. Consistent communication is one of the best ways to keep everyone working toward the goal of providing our students with a high-quality education. Please reach out by phone or email with any questions or concerns.

TECHNOLOGY: One of our goals is preparing students to be college and career ready. The technology we use daily in the classroom helps our instructors with teaching and students with learning. Student laptops are being re-imaged for student use in the fall. Once again, we will be sending forms home for you to complete regarding the district's Acceptable Use Policy terms and agreement. These policies and forms are also available on the district website under "Technology." This technological piece is vital to so many aspects of our education, not just instruction, but also continuous communication. It is especially

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important for students to have their laptop charged and with them every day they come to school.

It is also important to note we believe it is everyone's responsibility for teaching and promoting positive digital citizenship. This refers to displaying proper etiquette while using computers and cell phones and proper social media behavior. Please remember positive interactions among students online must be emphasized at home as well as at school. In order to create the best educational environment for our students and staff, all cell phones must remain in student lockers throughout the school day. Our goal at SWMS is to help our students not only grow academically, but socially and emotionally as well. This starts with educating them on how to interact with their peers in a positive way in the digital world.

SCHEDULE: Grades 7 and 8 will start their second year with the block schedule. Core classes meet every other day for 80 minutes and all specials will be in the traditional 40-minute schedule. Grade 6 will remain in a traditional 40-minute period schedule. We will follow an odd/even day schedule, where some classes meet on days 1, 3, and 5 while others will meet on days 2, 4, and 6. We are confident this schedule will continue to promote positive outcomes for our students.

The earliest students can enter the school is 7:15 a.m. Doors will be locked until then. Students arriving by bus will be let into the cafeteria at about 7:25 a.m. They will remain in the hall by the office or the cafeteria until the 7:35 a.m. bell. Then they will go to their lockers and report to their Extra Enrichment Time (EET) class by 7:45 a.m., where attendance is taken. Any student arriving after 7:45 a.m. is 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.

Students will have the opportunity to sign up and stay after school with teachers on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2:40 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Late transportation will be provided on these days. We encourage students to take advantage of this outstanding opportunity to build strong relationships with their teachers and get more focused help with coursework.

STAFF CHANGES

- Lucia Guarnieri joins Team 6 as an English teacher as she moves to us from the elementary school. She is replacing Sarah Peterson, our new Elementary Assistant Principal!

- Alyssa Froman is our new health teacher for Grades 6, 7, and 8. She will also be teaching a few



Southwestern Middle School students enjoying Summer Enrichment with art teacher Tina Clark spent time exploring the National Comedy Center in July 2024. After creating stop-motion animation projects in class, our Trojans saw how professionals use cartooning, animation, sound effects and humor to bring magic to the screen.

high school physical education classes.

- Tori Cobb is joining SWMS part-time as a Special Education teacher on special assignment. Her services will be shared with the elementary school.

These three educators will be fantastic additions to our SWMS team so be sure to welcome them to our Trojan family!

TROJAN PRIDE: The staff at Southwestern Middle School is committed to our district mission statement, "Learning for all: engaging and preparing for future success." We are focused on our students being prepared for their next phase of life not just academically, but socially, emotionally, and physically. My core values as an educator are centered around believing all students can reach their full potential, our school will always provide rewarding learning experiences, students, staff, parents, and the community will work together, and everyone will treat each other with respect. These core values and a student-centered approach will always guide my decisions when it comes to what is best for your child. On behalf of the entire Southwestern Middle School staff, we are looking forward to having a safe and productive school year. Enjoy the rest of your summer break!

Sincerely,
Greg Lauer
Middle School Principal

A Message from the High School Principal

Dear Southwestern CSD Students,
Parents, and Community Members,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying a wonderful summer. As we reflect on the past school year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the incredible progress we have made together. Our focused, aligned, and intentional work through collaborative planning has laid a strong foundation for our continued journey towards excellence. This collective effort, which we proudly call our "Blueprint for Excellence," will be the backbone of all our endeavors moving forward.

The cornerstones for our work are designed by our abilities to demonstrate Integrity, Kindness, Connections, and Excellence. As we look ahead to the 2024-2025 school year, I am excited to share our focused areas that will guide our efforts and ensure we continue to provide the best possible education for our students:

1. **The Student Experience:** We are committed to enhancing every aspect of our students' educational journey. This includes providing engaging and challenging academic programs, as well as extracurricular activities that foster personal growth and development.

2. **Community Connections:** Strengthening our ties with the community is essential. We will increase opportunities for parents and community members to be involved in school activities ensuring a collaborative approach to education.

3. **The Staff Experience:** Our dedicated staff is the heart of our school. We will focus on professional development, support, and recognition to ensure our teachers and staff have the resources and encouragement they need to excel in their roles.

4. **A Safe and Welcoming Environment:** The safety and well-being of our students and staff are paramount. We will continue to implement and enhance measures that ensure our school is a safe, inclusive, and welcoming place for everyone.

Additional priorities for the school year include the following:

• **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.



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We have additionally made a commitment to offer S.T.E.A.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) enhanced offerings to prepare students for continued education or the world of work. We also share a dedicated commitment to provide academic support for students who have an Individualized Education Plan or receive 504 accommodations. We offer many AP courses through the College Board as well as College Connection Courses available through Jamestown

Community College. Additionally, many students also choose to pursue a Career & Technical Education endorsed diploma via BOCES at the Hewes Center.

• **Alternative Learning Program:** The high school offers programming for "at-risk" students in the building. We are seeing an increasing number of students who are at-risk of meeting graduation requirements, 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:** Student attendance improved last year, but we continue to have too many students missing valuable instructional time due to absenteeism. 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. 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 for 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 your child's absence.

• **Cell Phones:** We continue to see a percentage of our students who have a difficult time knowing where to draw the line on their cell phone use. Many 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, Structured Learning Center, and during emergency drills. Upon entering a classroom, all high school students are required to store their cell phone in a designated "cell phone garage." Cell phones will

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be kept in the cell phone garage for the duration of class time.

- **Academic Support:** It is our responsibility to close achievement gaps in student performance. Current research shows that small group targeted instruction will help us close achievements gaps. Academic Intervention Services, Study Skills, and after-school academic support is available to students to seek additional help. After-school academic support is provided Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 2:45-3:25 pm. We also run an Academic Eligibility Report every 2 weeks to determine if a student needs additional remediation if they are at-risk of failing any enrolled course in the high school.

- **Dress Code:** Last year we amended SWCS Dress Code policy, and it is our belief that the student and their parent/guardian 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 the health or safety.

Students must wear:

- Top (shirt, blouse, sweater, sweatshirt, tank).
- 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 the unlawful use of weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or drug 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 additionally benefit from the best educational experience through an active involvement in our many different available 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 a few possibilities.

- **Trojan Pride:** As a school we must continually commit to the development of the whole child and provide various levels of support 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 our students will have a rewarding experience that we like to call "Trojan Pride."

- **Building Project:** This summer has been a flurry of activity in the high school. New heating units are being installed in classrooms, additional HVAC duct work is being completed, a new elevator, as well as a completely remodeled cafeteria. We are hopeful this work will be completed when the students return in September.

I am confident, with your continued support and collaboration, we'll achieve great things this year. Together, we will build on our "Blueprint for Excellence" and ensure our students are well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Our faculty and staff members are excited for our students' return on September 3. We look forward to your continued partnership as we strive to make Southwestern CSD the best place to educate children!

Warm regards,
Scott Cooper
High School Principal

Order The Centralian Yearbook

The Centralian, Southwestern High School's 2025 yearbook, is available for purchase at Jostens.com. The first 50 books will be sold at a special back-to-school sale for \$65. Prices then rise to \$75 through November 1, 2024, before going up to full price \$85. Yearbooks sell fast - don't miss out!

Parents/guardians of seniors can buy senior notes and ads at Jostens.com as well as submit senior baby photos and senior formals (if not taken at the school in May) at <https://photos.jostens.com/U6PQ3D>.

Makeups will be upcoming; students should check with Lori Calimeri for the date.

A Message from the High School Secondary Principal

Welcome back, Trojans!

Welcome back to all the members of the Southwestern Central School District community. I hope each of you has had a restful and relaxing summer and are ready to transition back into your school routines. At Southwestern High School, we are looking forward to seeing all our students for the first day of school Tuesday, September 3.

It is critical that ALL students feel welcomed, supported and connected to the Southwestern Central School family. In that spirit, we will continue to provide open communication with our families and be available to answer questions or concerns.

We will continue to do our part in ensuring that each of our students has the tools necessary to be successful as we provide high-quality teaching and learning. I encourage our parents/guardians to take an active role in their child's educational journey; studies continually point to the many benefits of parent/guardian involvement in their child's educational experience. Thank you for your role in



**MATTHEW
KINDBERG**

this process as taking an active role in the educational journey of your child has never been more important.

Additionally, we are continuing to emphasize Trojan Kindness for ALL people. 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 to live this idea out ALL DAY and EVERY DAY is not just critical for success at the high school level, but also for the world beyond the walls of Southwestern High School.

As a final thought to all 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 looking forward to all that the 2024-2025 school year has in store for us and will see you soon!

Respectfully,
Mr. Matthew Kindberg
Secondary Principal

A Message from the Technology & Curriculum Office

Dear Trojans:

Welcome back from the Technology and Curriculum Office! We hope you all had a great summer and took some time to rest and get ready for a great new school year. The technology and curriculum departments are doing everything we can to help 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. Our technology team has installed many Smartboards this summer and worked on the updated offices in the middle school and district office. Summer is a busy time for the technology department! We will continue to use Remind this school year; and we hope you have all had a chance to look at our new website. We are still adjusting some aspects as this was a huge undertaking. If you have any questions about our website please reach out! Our Tech Department is continuing to work on data privacy and security. In the spring, we participated in an audit with BOCES to evaluate the security of our network. It was a valuable exercise that we will continue annually. If you ever



**MOLLY
MOORE**

want to learn more about how to use the technology our schools are using, please email me at mmoore@swcsk12.org

Many of our teachers "went to school" this summer. About 30 teachers from SWCS partnered with teachers from Jamestown to attend a two-day Cooperative Learning workshop. Elementary teachers are piloting a Social Studies curricula that focuses on reading and writing skills using history topics. Middle and high school teachers worked on science curricula. Teams of teachers got together to look at Regents results. We also welcomed six new staff members at our two-day New Teacher Orientation held July 31 and August 1.

Teachers and staff return August 28 to kick off the academic year with two Staff Development Days before our students return. During those two days, we focus on some required annual trainings as well as an in-depth session on Professional Learning Communities. We look forward to our students back in our schools! Be well, Trojans!

Regards,
Molly Moore
Director of Instructional Services

Capital Project Nears Completion



A fresh, new look awaits our Trojan family for the first day of the 2024-2025 academic year with our students poised to benefit from numerous technology and safety updates.

Returning students and staff at Southwestern Central School District will notice some major upgrades to campus, all of which are part of an \$18,000,000 Capital Project approved by voters in late 2021. The improvements are designed to significantly enhance students' educational experience.

Nearly three years after work kicked off, Capital Project efforts are winding down. Some of the first and most obvious changes are the secure double entryways. These feature large vestibules where visitors will be screened for entry.

Another major change is the reconfigured high school cafeteria. The space has been reimagined and features a large wall of windows to allow plenty of natural light.

More enhancements are evident across all buildings, indoor and outdoor learning spaces.

The district main office has been reconfigured with additional storage space and two conference rooms for Pupil Personnel Services and Board of Education meetings.

Other upgrades include:

- Turf replacement at the main stadium for the high school
- Installation of energy efficient windows
- Lighting upgrades at the athletic field
- Soccer field drainage upgrades
- Exterior improvements such as roofing and patio development
- Gymnasium upgrades at the elementary school
- New Smartboards in classrooms



Top: Construction efforts at Southwestern CSD. Above, left: Upgrades were in order for the elementary gym. Above, right: New window installation in a middle school classroom. Below, left: A big project highlight is secure double entries, such as this one at the District Office. Below, right: New cabinetry installation in numerous classrooms. Bottom: Exterior work at the middle school.



Community Eligibility Provision

Southwestern is pleased to announce we will continue to operate the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2024-25 school year. Schools that participate in the CEP can provide a healthy breakfast and lunch each day at no charge for all students enrolled in a CEP school.

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

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

As a result of participating in the Community Eligibility Provision, we are eliminating the collection of meal

applications for free, reduced-price, and paid student meals.

We are requesting you complete the Household Income Form to determine eligibility for additional State and Federal program benefits that your child(ren) may qualify for. Most important, such data is used for additional state and federal funding for rural, economically disadvantaged school districts such as Southwestern.

Please complete the form on pages 13 & 14 and return it to Amee Kennedy in the district office. We would like the forms returned by September 20, 2024.

We believe this program will be a benefit to the students and families in our district. Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that we can bring programs like CEP and others to our district.

If you have any questions, please contact Amee Kennedy at 1-716-484-6800.

Alumni Update

Southwestern Central School District is pleased to introduce a couple alumni currently working for our Trojan family.

Haley Swan, a member of the Class of 2013 at Southwestern, is a third-grade teacher at the elementary school.

Not only is Swan an alumni, but she also began her teaching career at Southwestern.

“I look forward to continuing to build relationships with students and their families as well as working alongside some new and familiar faces,” says Swan.

Swan and her husband had their first child, Gannon, in March 2024, and says all of their free time is spent with their baby. She likes to play volleyball and go on walks with their dog, Tucker.

After graduating from The College at Brockport, Swan worked as a consultant teacher at Southwestern CSD for three years. She then worked as an 8:1:1 Special Educa-

tion teacher here for the past three years.

Matt Barton, a member of the Class of 2020, joins our team as a math teacher. He previously worked as a substitute and in the IT Department at Southwestern. His mom, Tiffany Barton, works in the Math Department.

“I look forward to building new relationships with other Trojan family members, both staff and students,” says Barton.

“Also, it will be exciting to be on the other side of education at Southwestern since I was a former student here.”

He enjoys spending his free time with his fiancé, Amanda, their cat, and friends. He also likes playing golf and video games.

Barton graduated with a bachelor's degree mathematics, applied mathematics and math education with minors in statistics and data science at The State University of New York Fredonia.



Haley Swan, above, with her family and Matthew Barton, below, with his fiancé.





2024-2025 Household Income Form

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

1. Please list all members of your household.

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

2. SNAP/TANF/FDPIR/Medicaid Benefits:

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

Please circle benefit: SNAP TANF FDRIP Medicaid

Name: _____ CASE # _____

3. Household Gross Income:

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

Total # of people in household	At or below	Between	At or above
1	\$19,578	\$19,579-\$27,861	\$27,862
2	\$26,572	\$26,573-\$37,814	\$37,815
3	\$33,566	\$33,567-\$47,767	\$47,768
4	\$40,560	\$40,561-\$57,720	\$57,721
5	\$47,554	\$47,555-\$67,673	\$67,674
6	\$54,548	\$54,549-\$77,626	\$77,627
7	\$61,542	\$61,543-\$87,579	\$87,580
8	\$68,536	\$68,367-\$97,532	\$97,533

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

_____ Income _____

4. Signature: An adult household member must sign this form.

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

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

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

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (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/ad-3027.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.

Hazeltine Public Library

It may not be the biggest, but the Hazeltine Public Library is proud to call it self the 'best little library in Busti.'

Created by the Hazeltine family in 1924 the HPL has worked for the last 100 years to serve the surrounding community and be a source of education, interest and community engagement.

HPL is home to over 15,000 hardcover books, 500 books on CD and 2,000 DVDs of all genres – fiction, non-fiction, Young Adult, teens, tweens and toddlers.

If our library does not have it, we can reach out to 35 other libraries and have the book or movie delivered here – all at no cost to you. Your library card, regardless of where you signed up, can be used at every library in Chautauqua county!

We have four public computers that are usually available with no time limits; quiet spaces for homework or needed tutoring and a play area for the youngest



patron. Our computers link with a number of system data bases – Libby, comics plus, New York Times and Ancestry.com to name a few.

Our Community Building has expanded our program space and allowed us to host the St. Bonaventure Art Mobile, the Audubon Community Nature Center and a Monday evening series of local author book signings.

We've stocked with Community Building with a variety of games and will open it up for play upon

request. Local groups looking for a small gathering place are encouraged to use the building – details available by contacting the library.

Recently our main entrance was made handicapped accessible with the addition of automatic door openers. These doors, coupled with our adjacent parking lot make the Hazeltine Public Library an easy place to visit.

The library is open 6 days a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 p.m. – 7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

You can follow us on Facebook, email the library at director@hazeltinelibrary.org, call us at 1-716-487-1281 or make the short trip to the 5 corners in Busti and visit us at 891 Busti Sugargrove Road.

We look forward to seeing you and letting you know all the Hazeltine Public Library can offer.

Lakewood Memorial Library

Lakewood Memorial Library is humming with activities for all ages – from story hours to art installations to book clubs, there is something for everyone. Here are some highlights of their programming and offerings for students:

- **Teen Area:** A perfect studying, socializing, and playing games. Charging stations are on deck and cool events including like game nights and movie nights featuring snacks that will keep you fueled and ready for fun.

- **Junior Reader's Area:** Designed to captivate young minds and spark creativity. From cozy reading nooks to new computers to interactive learning stations, it's a space where children can learn and explore.

- **Maker Space:** This features a state-of-the-art 3D printer, a marvel of technology that allows you to bring your imagination to life. From robotics kits to crafting supplies, budding inventors of all ages can explore, experiment, and collaborate in an environment designed to nurture creativity and curiosity. The



library also schedules STEAM and Maker events and workshops.

To stay up-to-date on programming, visit www.lakewoodlibrary.org, email info@lakewoodlibrary.org, follow us on Facebook @ [LakewoodMemorialLibrary14750](https://www.facebook.com/LakewoodMemorialLibrary14750) or call us at 716-763-6234.



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

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



Southwestern has a year-round Trojan Fan Store through BSN Sports. Order gear directly to your home. The link to shop is located on the school website's Athletics page under the "Trojan Fan Store" tab.