Good Evening, SMS Parents

Please scan to check in before our event begins

Welcome to Our House

Sterlington Middle School
6th Grade Orientation

SMS PANTHER CLUB

Scan the QR code to get involved!

STERLINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM



Welcome to Our House...

SAFETY EXCELLENCE INNOVATION SERVICE

SMS Vision & Mission

VISION

Our House promotes growth and learning for all!

MISSION

Sterlington Middle School will provide a safe place where excellence can be achieved through innovative learning experiences and service.

Who are we and what do we stand for?

Our Core Values

SAFETY
EXCELLENCE
INNOVATION
SERVICE



Here We Grow!

School Year	School Letter Grade	School Performance Score	Change in SPS from Prior Year
2024-25	B	87.4	+2.9 pts

Where do I find SMS policies and procedures?

STUDENT HANDBOOK	TITLE I HANDBOOK
Digital copy available on our school website under “Student Parent Resources” tab.	Digital resources available on our school website under “Title I” tab.

Read carefully…

DRESS CODE and CELL PHONE POLICIES

Dress Code













TAKE NOTE, PANTHERS!

It’s the LAW!



CELL PHONE EXPECTATIONS

- Maintain phone in backpack, purse, or locker in the off position beginning at arrival at school til getting in a car to go home, or arriving at home by bus.
- Phones should never be on your person.
- Zero tolerance policy - no warnings.
- Discipline will be administered beginning with the initial offense.

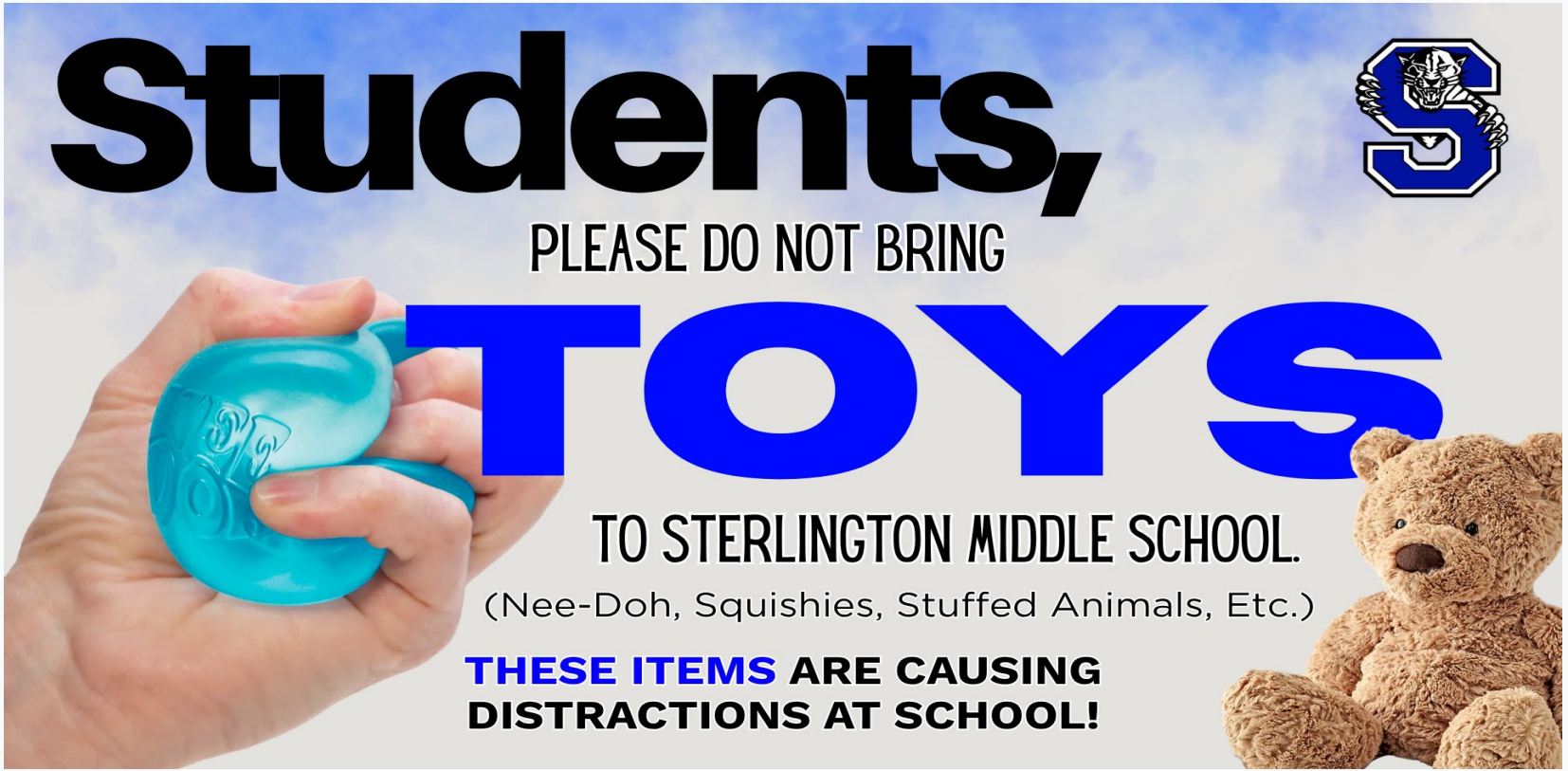
Discipline Expectations

SMS PBIS MOTTO

Students show Panther Pride by

- Striving for Excellence
- Making Good Choices
- Seeking Opportunities to Serve

Discipline Expectations



Attendance Expectations

SMS contributed to the overall success of the district attendance rate of 96.14% during the 2025-26 school year.

Our SMS attendance rate ranked in the Top 3 for middle schools for 17 weeks and number one for 9 weeks over the course of the 2025-26 school year.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS. ALL DAY. EVERY DAY.

STERLINGTON SCHOOLS



2026-27 Bell Schedules

SES

7:20 - Dropoff Begins
7:45 - First Bell
7:50 - School Begins
3:00 - Bus Dismissal
3:05 - Car Dismissal

SMS

7:15 - Dropoff Begins
7:35 - First Bell
7:40-8:35 - 1st period
8:38-9:27 - 2nd period
9:30-10:19 - 3rd period
10:22-11:11 - 4th period
11:11-11:31 - A lunch
11:14-12:03 - 5th period (6th grade)
11:34-12:23 - 5th period (7th and 8th grades)
12:03-12:23 - B lunch
12:26-1:15 - 6th period
1:18-2:07 - 7th period
2:10-2:59 - 8th period

SHS

7:30 - First Bell
7:35-8:35 - 1st period
8:40-9:35 - 2nd period
9:40-10:35 - 3rd period
10:40-11:35 - 4th period
11:35-11:55 - 1st lunch
12:00-12:55 - 5th period (1st lunch)
11:40-12:35 - 5th period (2nd lunch)
12:35-12:55 - 2nd lunch
1:00-1:55 - 6th period
2:00-2:55 - 7th period

Arrival Procedures

BUS RIDERS

- Exit the bus and take the walkway to the front entrance.
- Line up for the Open Gate weapon detection system.

CAR RIDERS

- Exit your vehicle on the RIGHT side and line up at the front entrance.
- Line up for the Open Gate weapon detection system.

WHAT NEXT?

Eating Breakfast? Report to the cafeteria. Then, go to the gym and sit in the 6th grade section.

Not Eating? Report directly to the gym to be seated.

All students will remain seated in the gym until the sound of the first bell in which you will then move to first period.

Open Gate Weapon Detection System

Be Prepared!



1. BACKPACK POSITION

Place your backpack over the front of your body with both straps over your shoulders.

2. CHROMEBOOK & BINDER

Hold your Chromebook and binder to easily pass it to the Open Gate attendants.

3. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS

Follow direction of the adults on duty and walk through the Open Gate.

4. NEXT STEPS

Take all of your belongings and report to the cafeteria or gym.

Dismissal Procedures

BUS RIDERS

- Dismiss class at the sound of the final bell and as directed by your teacher.
- Exit through the gym and load your bus.

CAR RIDERS

- Dismiss class at the sound of the final bell and as directed by your teacher.
- Exit through the front doors of the school and wait for your ride at the covered walkway.



REMINDER!

Do not waste time! Move to the bus or car line immediately!

Cell phones remain in the OFF position til you load your vehicle or arrive at home by bus.

6th Grade Course Offerings

REQUIRED Core Classes

- ELA (2 period block)
- Math + Math Enrichment
- Science
- Social Studies

PLUS...

- PE
- Elective (Keyboarding/IBCA, Drama, Band, Choir, Guitar)

Testing Requirements

District Common Assessment

- Periodic district checkpoints
- Aligned to the state academic standards
- Intended to mirror the rigor of LEAP

LEAP Assessment

- Culminating assessment
- Assesses mastery of the state academic standards in ELA, math, science, and social studies
- Students are assessed on both academic growth AND achievement.

Ways to Get Involved

Athletics

- Archery
- Boys Basketball
- Boys Soccer
- Cheer + Mascot
- Cross Country
- Dance Team
- Football
- Girls Basketball
- Girls Soccer
- Golf
- Girls Softball
- Pep Squad
- Sports Medicine
- Track

Clubs, Organizations, & Electives

- Band
- Beta Club
- Choir
- Drama
- Digital Media
- Fellowship of Christian Students
- Guitar
- 4-H
- Robotics/STEM
- SMS News
- Sparkle
- Student Council
- Talented Art
- Yearbook

SMS PANTHER CLUB

TITLE I PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

ATTEND SCHOOL EVENTS

As a parent, how can I engage with SMS and help my child succeed?

COMMUNICATE WITH TEACHERS

SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

VOLUNTEER WHEN ABLE

SCHOOL WEBSITE

ONCOURSE CONNECT

ROBO MESSAGING

How will SMS communicate with me?

SCHOOL MARQUEE

SOCIAL MEDIA

SMS NEWS (YOU TUBE)

Good to Know!

Who do I see when I don't feel well?	Nurse Rachel
Who do I talk to when I'm feeling down?	Counselor LaToya Washington
Who do I go to when I have questions?	Any adult…administrator, teacher, staff
Who do I talk to when I see or hear concerns my principals should be aware of?	Any administrator or the counselor
Who do I request a locker from?	Assistant Principal, Mr. Evans
Does SMS have school dances?	Yes, approximately three per year
When can I purchase concessions?	During your lunch shift ($2)
When can I visit the vending machines?	During class exchanges
Do I use my same lunch number from last year?	No. Lunch numbers do not transfer. You will receive a new lunch number this year.
Is there a Lost & Found?	Yes - available during lunch. All unclaimed items will be donated weekly.

What our 2025-26 6th graders have to say...

What was the best part of your 6th grade experience at SMS?



Independence
More freedom to be ourselves…but with that comes greater responsibility

Supportive Environment
Helpful and amazing teachers

Recognition & Rewards
Rewards/incentives for PBIS and PBTT

Achievement
Beta Club member for academic achievement

Leadership & Sports
Football team and Student Council class representative

Social Life
Enjoying pep rallies and lunch with friends

What our 2025-26 6th graders have to say...

What was the greatest challenge you experienced as a 6th grader?



Time Management
Balancing homework, sports, and meeting deadlines consistently.

Academic Pressure
The stress of falling behind and needing to study without assigned homework.

Organization
Adjusting to fewer reminders and finding ways to stay organized.

New Systems
Adjusting to the Open Gate weapon detection system daily.

Advice From Our 2025-26 6th Graders

What advice would you give an incoming 6th grader?



Involvement

Try new activities and stay self-motivated throughout the year.

Balance

Don’t overload yourself; focus on your own experiences at school.

Academics

Keep up with assignments, meet deadlines, and remember to study.

Social Environment

Treat others with respect and stay away from friend group drama.

Thoughts from Our 6th Grade Teachers

What would you tell your incoming 6th graders is the best part of being an SMS Panther?

Increased Freedom and Growth

Incoming students gain significantly more freedom compared to elementary school, which allows for opportunity, discovering what they love, and personal growth.

Supportive Community

SMS offers substantial support from teachers who want students to succeed, fostering a family environment where everyone supports each other. **#WeAreFamily**

Involvement and Activities

A key benefit is the number of activities, clubs, and organizations available to join and be a part of.

Part of a Larger Community

Being a Panther means joining a community that expects your best, believes in your potential, and helps you grow stronger and more confident.

Words of Wisdom From Our 6th Grade Teachers

What is the number one challenge students face during their transition to middle school?



Organization & Independence

Being organized and taking responsibility for work. Students face a new level of independence and must manage multiple subjects.

Communication Shifts

A hard transition from parent-focused communication (Class Dojo, take-home folders) to expecting students to relay information to parents.

Increased Academic Pace

Teachers expect more, work moves faster, and there is a significant increase in the volume and speed of lessons.

Social-Emotional Needs

Students often lack a "Sense of Confidence and Belonging" amidst less strict environments than elementary school.

Advice From Our 6th Grade Teachers

What is the best piece of advice you would give incoming 6th graders?



Organization and Time Management

Incoming 6th graders should start and remain organized to keep up with assignments and avoid getting behind. Ask for help immediately if issues arise.

Academic Mindset

Come ready to work hard. You are not alone—staff is here for you. Try your best, learn from mistakes, and give yourself grace.

Seeking Support

Don't be afraid to ask questions. Reach out when feeling overwhelmed and give yourself time to adjust to the transition.

Behavior and Conduct

Be kind and compassionate. Practice self-control daily and respect others by not touching them or their belongings.

First Days of School Schedule

6th Grade
Tuesday, August 11, 2026

7:40 - 8:10	(30 minutes)	Welcome Assembly, Gym
8:13 -10:43	(2 hours, 30 minutes)	Welcome Period
10:46 - 11:11	(25 minutes)	1st Period
11:14 - 11:37	(23 minutes)	Lunch
11:40 - 12:06	(26 minutes)	2nd Period
12:09 - 12:35	(26 minutes)	3rd Period
12:38 - 1:04	(26 minutes)	4th Period
1:07 - 1:33	(26 minutes)	5th Period
1:36 - 2:02	(26 minutes)	6th Period
2:05 - 2:31	(26 minutes)	7th Period
2:34 - 2:59	(25 minutes)	8th Period
2:59		Dismiss students to Bus and Car Pick Up

Connect With Us!

FOLLOW

US ON FACEBOOK

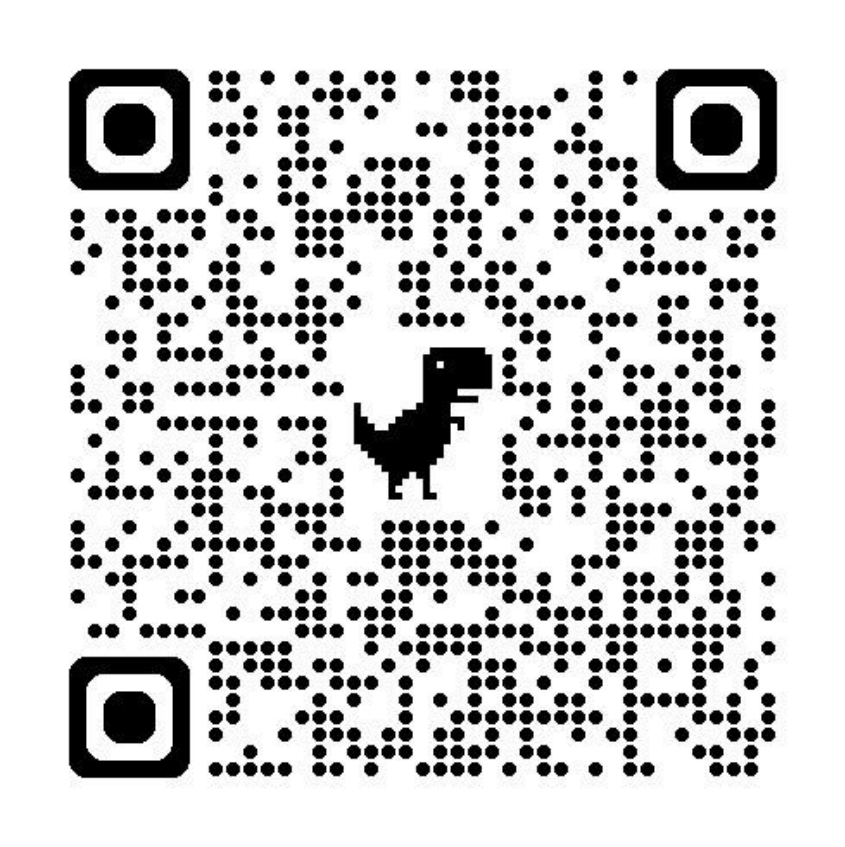
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Got Questions?



Welcome Home, Panthers!



SAFETY EXCELLENCE INNOVATION SERVICE