

Spotlight

Back-to-School Edition

Fall 2026

Inside...

Superintendent.....	2
Technology	3
Calendar.....	4
Elementary	5-6
Contact Info	6
Middle School.....	7
High School	8-9
CEP.....	9-11

*The mission of
Southwestern CSD is
Learning for All:
Engaging & Preparing
for Future Success.*

*Our vision is Southwestern:
A community providing
a comprehensive & relevant
education that enables
every student to achieve.*

**INTEGRITY,
KINDNESS,
CONNECTION,
EXCELLENCE.**



**Southwestern
Central School
District**

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

New Faces, New Year



Southwestern Central School District is excited to welcome new instructional staff for the 2026-27 school year. Joining the Elementary School are Olivia Sferra, School Psychologist Intern; Jordan Dilts, School Psychologist; Allison Romain, Music Teacher; Emma Telesco, Grade 5 Teacher; and Andrew Lindell, Special Education Teacher. At the Middle School, Gretchen Lindell joins as Business Teacher, Corinne Covert as Agriculture/Technology Teacher, and Drew Keppel as Physical Education/Health Teacher. Joining the High School are Tina Couchenour, AEP Teaching Assistant; Stephanie Baker, Art Teacher; Emily Phelps, Special Education Teacher; and Rebecca Allen, Chemistry Teacher. Not pictured: Jordan Dilts.

Raptor Visitor System to be Implemented

The Raptor Visitor Management System will be implemented in all Southwestern district schools during the school day, beginning September 1 as part of ongoing efforts to enhance school safety and maintain a welcoming environment for students, staff, and visitors.

Visitors and volunteers entering district buildings will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID, which will be scanned through Raptor. The system checks the individual's name, date of birth and photo against a national sex offender database.

Approved visitors will receive

a badge identifying the date and purpose of their visit and their destination within the building. The badge will help staff quickly identify approved visitors while they are in the school.

Badges will not be required for individuals simply dropping off an item at the office or picking up paperwork.

The district also emphasizes that the Raptor system is designed with visitor privacy in mind. The system scans only the visitor's name, date of birth and photo from the ID and is not connected to the Department of Motor Vehicles or other systems.



SWCS Board of Education 2026-27

Mr. Michael Carothers,
President
Dr. Elizabeth Laczi,
Vice President
Mr. Zachary Agett
Mr. Troy Durnell
Mr. Joshua Gesing
Mr. Kenneth Macdonald
Mr. Shane Uber

Student ex-officio
members:
Lincoln Bockrath
Gracie Watkins

Meetings of the
Southwestern Central School
Board of Education are
held in the Board Room at
Southwestern Middle School.
Meetings start at 6 p.m.

BOE SCHEDULE

September 15, October 13,
November 10, December
8, January 12, February 9,
March 9, March 23, April 13,
April 27, May 11, June 8,
June 22.

Social Media

Visit Southwestern Central
School District's website
at www.swcsk12.org
and follow its Instagram,
Facebook and X accounts
@SWCSTrojans for the
most up-to-date information
about events, celebrations,
meetings, opportunities,
accomplishments, and more.

A Message from the Superintendent...

Dear Southwestern
Community,

As I write this
letter to you, we are
approaching the end of
July. Pretty soon, some
of our students will start
to return to campus
to begin training for
fall athletics. While it
is nice to have a quiet
campus for a few weeks
in July to wrap up the
previous school year and
focus on key elements to get the
next school year started, it is a
wonderful feeling to have student
energy back on campus!

We welcome our new
staff and our new students
to Southwestern! We hosted
about a dozen new instructional
staff members in late July and
look forward to them joining
our Southwestern family. This
spotlight includes photos and
information about our new
instructional staff.

Our buildings and grounds
staff have worked tirelessly to
organize, clean, and prepare our
campus for another great school
year. Kudos to the teamwork and
effort it takes to get our buildings
shiny and clean for the next year.
We hope everyone attends our
District Wide Open House on
September 2nd to meet your new
teachers and see how great our
campus looks!

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

Last year, Southwestern
implemented the state required
"Bell-to-Bell" cell phone ban.
We are asking for continued
support from our families, as we



**MOLLY
MOORE**

truly see the benefit
for all students when
they cannot access
their cell phone for
the entire school
day. We are working,
particularly at the high
school, to continue
to enforce this policy
and give students
opportunities to see
the benefits of turning
off their phones for the
entire school day. If you
have questions, please reach out
to the school's main office.

Lastly and most importantly,
I hope everyone will focus
on Southwestern's Mission:
Learning for All. We will continue
our critical work focusing
on Professional Learning
Communities and answering
these questions: 1. What do
we want our students to know?
2. How will we know they have
learned it? 3. What will we do
for the students who haven't
learned it yet? 4. What will we
do for the students who have
learned it already? These four
critical questions will continue
to guide our work as we strive
to be the best public school for
all students. The Learning for
All lens will be used as we move
towards changing graduation
requirements that reflect the work
of Portrait of a Graduate.

Information about the work
at Southwestern surrounding
Portrait of a Learner/Graduate will
be available for families at Open
House, on social media, and on
our website.

Please reach out to me at 716-
484-1136 or mmoore@swcsk12.org
with questions or feedback.
Go Trojans!

*Sincerely,
Molly Moore,
Superintendent of Schools*

A Message from the Technology & Curriculum Office

Dear Southwestern Community,
Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! As we prepare for another exciting year, the Technology and Curriculum Office has been working diligently throughout the summer to ensure a smooth and successful start for our students, staff, and families.

As in previous years, student and teacher laptops and iPads have been updated and prepared for distribution. This year, we are also excited to implement the RAPTOR Visitor Management System throughout the district. RAPTOR will enhance the safety and security of our schools by streamlining visitor check-in procedures and helping us maintain a safe learning environment for all students and staff.

In addition, students in grades 3–8 will begin using ThinkTech, our new instructional technology platform designed to support extensive access to grade-level content that also allows for quick teacher assessment of skills and data analysis to make informed instructional decisions. We look forward to the opportunities this resource will provide as we continue to integrate meaningful technology into teaching and learning.

Our staff has continued to work tirelessly throughout the summer to strengthen the Professional Learning Community (PLC) process. Teachers have collaborated to analyze student learning, refine instructional practices, and prepare for a successful school year. In addition, the administrative team spent July 30 continuing its partnership with Modern Learners, focusing on the implementation of New York Inspires and the Portrait of a Graduate framework. This work will help guide instructional practices and support our shared vision for preparing students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions needed for future success.

We are also excited to share that our Middle School Mathematics Department is participating in the Mathematics Empowerment through Standards-Based Grading (ME-SBG) initiative through The 21st Century Partnership for STEM Education. This collaborative professional learning experience is designed to strengthen mathematics instruction and assessment by aligning grading practices with clearly defined learning standards. As part of this work, our sixth-grade team will begin implementing standards-based grading during the 2026–2027 school year. Research has shown that standards-based grading provides more accurate and meaningful feedback on student learning by measuring mastery of specific standards rather than averaging points or assignments.



KAITLIN RING

This approach helps students better understand their strengths and areas for growth, supports a growth mindset, and enables teachers to use assessment data more effectively to guide instruction and improve student outcomes. We are excited to support our teachers through this important work as we continue our commitment to providing high-quality, student-centered instruction.

Another exciting initiative for the 2026–2027 school year is the implementation of Algebra for All in eighth grade. This year, all eighth-grade students will have the opportunity to participate in Algebra, reflecting our district's commitment to maintaining high expectations and expanding access to rigorous learning experiences for every student. Research consistently demonstrates that when schools provide all students with access to challenging coursework, coupled with high-quality instruction and appropriate supports, students experience greater academic growth, increased confidence, and improved college and career readiness.

Studies by organizations such as the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and The Education Trust emphasize that equitable access to rigorous mathematics coursework helps reduce opportunity gaps while fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and perseverance. Through Algebra for All, we are committed to ensuring every student is challenged, supported, and empowered to achieve at high levels, preparing them for future success in high school mathematics and beyond.

To help families better understand these exciting instructional initiatives, the Middle School will host two informational sessions during our Districtwide Open House. The first session will provide an overview of standards-based grading, including what families can expect as the sixth-grade team begins implementation this school year. The second session will introduce our Algebra for All initiative, providing an overview of the program, the research supporting equitable access to rigorous mathematics instruction, and the instructional supports that will be in place to ensure student success.

Families will also have the opportunity to learn how this initiative prepares students for future mathematics coursework while fostering confidence, problem-solving skills, and a growth mindset. Additional details regarding these informational sessions, including times and locations, will be shared with families as part of the Districtwide Open House information.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

We were also excited to welcome 12 new staff members during our New Teacher Orientation held on July 28 and 29. Their enthusiasm and dedication will be a tremendous asset to our school community, and we are thrilled to have them join the Southwestern family.

Our faculty and staff will return September 1–3 for three Staff Development Days before students begin the new school year. During these days, staff will complete annual required training, continue their PLC work, and engage in professional learning designed to support high-quality instruction and student success.

Students will begin the 2026-2027 school year

on Tuesday, September 8th.

The Technology and Curriculum Office remains committed to supporting innovative instruction, providing meaningful professional learning opportunities, and ensuring our technology systems continue to meet the needs of our students, staff, and families. We look forward to another outstanding school year and to partnering with you to support the success of every student.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Ring
Director of Instructional Services
Southwestern Central School

What's Happening in 2026-2027

SEPTEMBER 2026

7 Labor Day/No School
8 First Day of Student Attendance
15 Board of Education meeting
23 MS Picture Day
23 HS Picture Day
28 Gr. 5 Band/Orchestra Parent Meeting

OCTOBER 2026

2 Emergency Go Home Early Drill
3 Homecoming Dance
6 ES Picture Day
12 Indigenous Peoples Day/No School
13 Board of Education meeting
21 HS Picture Retakes
30 ES Trunk-or-Treat

NOVEMBER 2026

2 NHS Induction Ceremony 7 p.m.
6 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences
10 Board of Education meeting
11 Veterans Day/No School
13 MS/HS End of 1st Quarter
18 MS Picture Retakes
19 ES Picture Retakes
20 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences
20 MS/HS Report Cards
25-27 Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER 2026

3 Gr. 4-5 Winter Concert 7 p.m.
6 ES End of 1st Trimester
8 Board of Education meeting
8 HS Winter Concert
9 Gr. 6 Winter Concert 6 p.m.
9 Gr. 7-8 Winter Concert 7:30 p.m.
11 Gr. 1-5 Report Cards

11 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences
23-31 Winter Recess

JANUARY 2027

1 Winter Recess continues
8 UPK Applications available
12 Board of Education meeting
18 MLK Jr. Day/No School
26-29 Regents Exams at HS
29 MS/HS End of 2nd Quarter

FEBRUARY 2027

5 UPK-K Report Cards
5 MS/HS Report Cards
9 Board of Education meeting
9 Gr. 8 Parent Orientation 7 p.m.
15 Presidents Day/No School
16-19 Mid-Winter Recess

MARCH 2027

5 UPK Application deadline 4 p.m.
8 Kindergarten Applications available
9 Board of Education meeting
10-19 ES Book Fair
12 Superintendent's Day/No Student Attendance
17 ES Literacy Night 6:30 p.m.
18 Battle of the Classes
19 ES Parent/Teacher Conferences
19 Gr. 3 Multicultural Fair
23 Board of Education meeting
23 HS Spring Concert
24 Gr. 6-8 Spring Concert
26-31 Spring Recess

APRIL 2027

1-2 Spring Recess continues
4 ES End of 2nd Trimester

9 Gr. 1-5 Report Cards
13 Board of Education meeting
14 ES Spring Pictures
16 MS/HS End of 3rd Quarter
22 Gr. 5 Spring Concert
23 MS/HS Report Cards
27 Board of Education meeting
29 Gr. 5 Spring Band & Orchestra Concert 7 p.m.

MAY 2027

7 MS Spring Pictures
11 Board of Education meeting/
Budget Hearing 6 p.m.
13 HS Pops Concert 7 p.m.
14 Gr. 5 Spelling Bee
18 MS Pops Concert 7 p.m.
18 Annual Budget Vote & BOE Election 7-9 a.m. & 2-8 p.m.
24 Top 10 Luncheon
29 Prom Night
31 Memorial Day/No School

JUNE 2027

4 Gr. 3 Talent Show
7 HS Scholarship Night
8 Board of Education meeting
9 Gr. 5 Science Fair
9 Gr. 5 Parent Orientation
10 Jr. Honor Society induction ceremony 7:30 p.m.
14 ES Field Day & Flag Day
14 Senior Walk/Breakfast
16 MS Awards 2:50 p.m.
18 Juneteenth/No School
22 Board of Education meeting
24 ES Report Cards
24 Baccalaureate
25 MS/HS End of 4th Quarter
25 Graduation 7 p.m.
30 End of 3rd Trimester

A Message from the Elementary School Principal

Dear Southwestern Elementary Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year! I'm thrilled to be returning for my second year as principal at Southwestern Elementary School! After spending my first year listening, learning, and building relationships with our staff, students, and families, I've discovered that our greatest strength is our school community.

The overwhelming sense of family and pride in our school is what makes each day special. This year, we will continue building on the many strengths of our school while focusing on high-quality instruction, meaningful relationships, and fostering a culture where every child feels a true sense of belonging.

Guided by the values of the Trojan Way — being Respectful, Responsible, Safe, and Kind — we are committed to helping every student grow with INTEGRITY, promote EXCELLENCE, forge lasting CONNECTIONS, and spread KINDNESS. It is a privilege to serve this incredible community, and I look forward to another outstanding year of learning, celebration, and success together!

CURRICULUM

During the 2026-2027 school year, our teachers will continue their work strengthening their collaboration and alignment to state learning standards through their Professional Learning Communities. We will continue our focus on *Learning for All* and reinforce our mission of engaging and preparing students through strong core instruction and evidence-based, data driven intervention and enrichment.

This year, we will be emphasizing our literacy instruction. All returning teachers have been trained in the "Science of Reading" and we will be working to strengthen our implementation of those practices. Students in K-2 will receive daily direct instruction and practice opportunities to build strong phonics and foundational literacy skills while students in grades 3-5 will focus on strengthening vocabulary, fluency, and depth of comprehension.

SCHOOL OPENING & OPEN HOUSE

Our first day of school with students will be September 8th. Open House will take place September 2nd. UPK and Kindergarten Open House will be held from 5:00-6:00 pm and Open House for Grade 1-5 is from 5:00-6:30 pm. Students are welcome to bring their supplies for the school year and leave them in their classrooms. Supply lists are available on the SWES website.

New at Open House this year, all families of students who will be picked up in our car rider



**MICHAEL
BUTLER**

line will need to stop by the gym to register and pick up their car rider tag for the 2026-2027 school year. This will apply to students who are regularly and occasionally picked up in a car.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Students may be dropped off at 8:35 and wait at the main entrance until 8:50. If students are eating breakfast at school, they may enter through the cafeteria doors starting at 8:35. This year, breakfast and lunch will continue to be free for all students. Students picked up in the car line will be

dismissed at 3:15 and buses will be dismissed at 3:20.

Please help ensure a safe and orderly dismissal by avoiding early dismissals after 2:30pm.

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

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF UPDATES

Special Education Teacher – Andrew Lindell
5th Grade Teacher – Emma Telesco
General Music Teacher – Allison Romain
School Psychologist – Jordan Dilts
School Psychologist Intern – Olivia Sferra

NEW PROCEDURES FOR VISITORS

New for the 2026-2027 school year, we are implementing the Raptor Identification system for building visitors. Any visitor entering the school building will now be asked to present government identification to the staff to sign in. The Raptor system is designed to help us track and monitor who is entering the building and provide an additional layer of security. We understand that it may take time to get used to the new procedures, but please be assured that this added procedure is designed to ensure the safety of all.

Continued on next page

A Message from the Assistant Elementary School Principal

Dear Southwestern Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! Whether you are returning to our school community or joining us for the first time, we are excited to have you as part of our school family. We hope your summer provided time for rest, fun, and making special memories with family and friends.

As we begin a new school year, we remain committed to continuous growth through our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). Our staff will continue collaborating in dedicated teams to focus on student learning, analyze data to guide instruction, and respond to the unique needs of every learner. This work reflects our district's commitment to Learning for All by ensuring every student has access to high-quality instruction, meaningful support, and opportunities to achieve success.

We will also continue strengthening our implementation of the Science of Reading, providing students with research-based literacy instruction that builds strong foundational reading skills. At the same time, we remain focused on learning and developing the skills and qualities outlined in the NYS Portrait of a Graduate. In



SARAH PETERSON

elementary school, our focus will be on a Portrait of a Learner, which provides the foundation for students to grow as critical thinkers, effective communicators, creative innovators, academically prepared learners, global citizens, and reflective and future focused individuals, who are prepared for success both in and beyond the classroom.

I am excited for the opportunities this school year will bring as our students learn, grow, build lasting friendships, and create wonderful memories. I look forward to continuing our partnership with students, families, staff, and the community as we work together to make this a successful and rewarding year. We are committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where every child feels valued, supported, and celebrated while growing academically, socially, and emotionally.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer break! We look forward to welcoming everyone back soon and beginning another wonderful year together.

*Sincerely,
Sarah Peterson
Elementary Assistant Principal*

Continued from previous page

Please also be aware that visitors will be limited to appointments only. Call the office ahead of time to make an appointment at 716-664-1881. Parents/guardians must be Board Approved to enter the school as a volunteer for parties and field trips. Applications for board approved volunteers are available in the elementary school office. If you are considering volunteering, please be proactive and get your application completed early to allow time for the approval process. In addition to these volunteer opportunities, families and the community will be

invited to events throughout the year. Schools thrive with strong support from families and the community.

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

*Michael Butler
Principal
Southwestern Elementary School*

Southwestern Central School Contact Information

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

A Message from the Middle School Principal

Welcome to the 2026-2027 school year!

I am thrilled and honored to be joining Southwestern Middle School as your new principal, and I cannot wait to meet each of you, if I haven't already! We've spent the summer preparing the building and planning exciting opportunities for our students, and we're ready for a fantastic year ahead. The first school day for students is Tuesday, September 8, 2026, and this will be a full day.



KATIE MILEY

bell. Students must be in class by the 7:45 a.m. bell to be considered on time. If your student is not riding the bus in the morning, please drop them off at the front middle school entrance; likewise, if you are picking your student up at the end of the day. If you have questions about bus transportation schedules, please contact the bus garage at 716-763-8391. Please follow these school procedures and exercise patience to ensure everyone enters safely.

WELCOME NEW INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Please welcome the following new staff members to the Trojan family! They will be a wonderful addition and are eager to get started.

- Corinne Covert is our new Technology/Agriculture Teacher
- Drew Keppel is our new Health teacher (was technology last year)
- Gretchen Lindell is our new Business teacher
- Taylor Putney is our new 7th grade Math teacher
- Emilie Barnett is our new 8th grade Spanish teacher

EXCITING NEW INITIATIVES THIS YEAR

We are implementing two important programs this year that will enhance our students' learning experiences. All 8th grade students will participate in algebra, providing them with a strong mathematical foundation for high school and beyond. Additionally, all 6th grade classes will transition to standards-based grading, which focuses on mastery of specific skills and provides clearer feedback on student progress. Please plan to attend our Open House to learn more about both initiatives and how they will benefit your child.

The administrative team has also been doing extensive work around the Portrait of a Learner/Portrait of a Graduate framework. Stay tuned for future discussions about this important statewide topic and how it will shape our approach to developing well-rounded, future-ready students.

TROJAN TROOPS

Our goal at Southwestern Middle School is to help our students not only grow academically but also socially, and emotionally. This year we will continue working towards this goal with our "Trojan Troops" which puts students in teams that meet regularly and focus on the Southwestern core values: Integrity, Kindness, Connections, and Excellence. Our faculty has a lot of fun and engaging activities planned for our students to help them build confidence and foster strong relationships with their peers and the staff.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Buses will drop students off at 7:30 a.m. at the middle and high school. Students may wait in the cafeteria or lobby near the office until the 7:35 a.m.

BUILDING ACCESS

When visiting the middle school during the day, please use the main entrance and wait to be buzzed in by our office staff. While we understand that occasionally you may need to drop off a forgotten lunch or item, we kindly ask that you avoid regularly delivering drinks and snacks to students during the school day.

CELL PHONE POLICY

Research has shown that cell phones can significantly disrupt learning. To provide the best educational environment for our students and staff, all cell phones must remain turned off and in student lockers throughout the school day, effective the first day of school. By reducing cell phone use and limiting social media interactions during school hours, we aim to create a safer, more focused atmosphere where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

I cannot emphasize enough how critical daily attendance is to your child's success. To reach their full potential and be prepared for high school, students must be present and on time every single day. If you are experiencing challenges with your child's attendance, please reach out to us immediately as we are here to support you. Remember, we are a team, and your child's success is our shared priority.

AFTER-SCHOOL SUPPORT

Students will have the opportunity to stay after school with teachers on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:40 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Late transportation will be provided on these days, and students must sign up for the late bus, if necessary, by 11:00 a.m. in the main office. Please encourage your child to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to build relationships with teachers and receive additional help with their schoolwork.

ATHLETIC EVENTS

Southwestern students in grades K-8 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at athletic events during the 2026-27 school year. For questions, please contact our athletic director, Mr. Salisbury, at 716-484-6840 or ksalisbury@swcsk12.org.

Continued on next page

A Message from the High School Principal

Dear Trojan Families and Community Partners,

I hope you and your family have had the opportunity to enjoy a safe, relaxing, and rewarding summer. As we prepare to begin the 2026–2027 school year, I am excited to welcome both returning and new students to Southwestern High School. Each new school year provides an opportunity to build upon our successes, embrace new challenges, and continue creating the type of environment where every student can be successful.

I also want to welcome our new instructional staff: Tina Couchenour – AEP Teaching Assistant; Stephanie Baker – Art Teacher; Emily Phelps – Special Education Teacher; and Rebecca Allen – Chemistry Teacher.

At Southwestern High School, our commitment to student engagement and academic excellence remain at the heart of everything we do. We strive to provide rigorous, engaging learning experiences that prepare students for success in college, careers and life beyond graduation. We believe that EVERY student deserves access to high-quality instruction that encourages both curiosity and critical thinking, and fosters resilience. Our mission extends beyond earning a diploma—we are committed to developing knowledgeable, responsible, and compassionate young adults who are prepared to make meaningful contributions to their communities.

This year, Southwestern High School will focus on implementing the New York State Portrait of a Graduate, a statewide vision that defines the knowledge, skills, and characteristics every student will need to ensure success in college, careers, and life. While strong academic achievement will always remain our foundation, we are equally committed to helping students become effective communicators, critical thinkers, creative innovators, global citizens, and reflective, future-focused learners. Throughout the year, our faculty will work collaboratively to intentionally embed these competencies into classroom instruction, learning experiences, and extracurricular opportunities. By creating authentic opportunities for students to think critically, solve problems, collaborate with others, and reflect on their growth, we are preparing them not only for graduation, but for success in an ever-changing world.

As technology continues to shape our daily lives, we also recognize the importance of helping students



**MATT
KINDBERG**

develop healthy habits around personal device use. New York State's bell-to-bell cell phone expectations continue to support school environments where students can focus on learning, collaborate with their peers, and engage more fully in classroom experiences. Research consistently demonstrates that reducing distractions during the school day leads to stronger academic engagement, improved social interactions, and better overall well-being.

We appreciate the continued support of our families as we work together to provide an environment where students can remain focused on learning and building positive relationships.

Just as important as academic success is the culture we create within our building. One of the guiding principles we emphasize every day is that of the Golden Rule—treat others the way you want to be treated. Whether in the classroom, on the athletic field, or throughout our school community, we expect our students to demonstrate kindness, integrity, empathy, and respect for the other(s) in their midst. These values help create a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone can succeed.

Strong partnerships between school and home are essential to student success. We encourage families to remain actively engaged by attending school events, communicating with teachers, monitoring student progress, and celebrating achievements throughout the year. Together, we can provide encouragement and support that help our students reach their full potential.

We look forward to welcoming students back to Southwestern High School on Tuesday, September 8. As the school year approaches, additional information regarding schedules, transportation, extracurricular activities, and other important updates will be shared through our district website, email communications, and social media platforms.

Thank you for your continued trust, support, and partnership. I am excited about the year ahead and look forward to all that our students will accomplish. Here's to a successful and memorable 2026–2027 school year, together!

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

Continued from previous page

LET'S STAY CONNECTED

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the main office at 716-664-6270. I believe that consistent and proactive communication is essential to helping our students succeed. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our Open House on September 2,

2026, from 6:00–7:30 p.m. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our new algebra and standards-based grading programs!

Enjoy the final days of summer and get ready for an amazing year ahead!

Excited for a great year ahead,

*Katie Miley
MS Principal*

A Message from the Assistant High School Principal

Hello Trojan Families,

As we prepare for the 2026-2027 school year, I am excited to begin my second year as Assistant Principal at Southwestern High School. It has been a privilege to become part of this incredible community, and I am grateful for the relationships I have built with our students, families, and staff over the past year.

One of the beliefs that guides my work is that **acceptance is one of the most important qualities we can cultivate in a school community.**

When students feel valued, respected, and supported for who they are, they are more willing to take risks, challenge themselves, and engage fully in their learning. I also believe that academic rigor and joy go hand in hand. The most meaningful learning happens when students feel connected, curious, and inspired to grow.

This year, our staff will continue working collaboratively through the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) process to ensure every student receives the support and opportunities they need to succeed. As we embrace New York State's Portrait of a Graduate initiative, we remain committed to helping students develop not only



**MARIELLE
GUIDO**

strong academic skills, but also the communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and resilience needed for success beyond high school.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, pursuing outdoor adventures, and finding new fitness challenges. I also remain connected to my musical roots through performance opportunities and a lifelong appreciation for music. Whether through academics, athletics, the arts, or extracurricular activities, I enjoy learning what makes our students unique and celebrating the many talents they bring to Southwestern.

I look forward to another year of partnering with families, supporting our students, and contributing to the tradition of excellence that makes Southwestern such a special place. Together, we can ensure that every student feels seen, supported, challenged, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Here's to a fantastic year filled with growth, connection, and Trojan Pride!

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



Community Eligibility Provision

Southwestern Central School District is pleased to continue participating in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2026–2027 school year.

Through CEP, all enrolled students may receive one healthy breakfast and one healthy lunch each school day at no charge. Students may choose the daily menu offering or an alternate meal, when available.

Additional meals and à la carte items, such as extra milk, bottled water, and chips, will be available for purchase. An additional breakfast costs \$2.75 for students in grades 6–12 and \$2.50 for students in kindergarten through grade 5. An additional lunch costs \$3.50 for grades 6–12 and \$3.00 for kindergarten through grade 5.

Because Southwestern participates in CEP, families do not need to complete an application for free or reduced-price meals. However, each household will be asked to complete a Household Income Form. The information collected helps determine eligibility for additional state and federal benefits and supports important funding for rural school districts like Southwestern.

The form is located on pages 10 and 11 in this back-to-school newsletter.

We are proud to offer this benefit to our students and families and appreciate your help in completing the Household Income Form. If you have any questions, please contact Amee Kennedy at 716-484-6800.



2026-2027 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.
- 2) Circle the box that represents the range of annual household income in that same line of the chart. Make sure to include all of the following income sources: work, welfare, child support, alimony, pensions, retirement, Social Security, SSI, VA benefits, and/or all other income. The amount should be before any deductions for taxes, insurance, medical expenses, child support, etc. Select the appropriate range of combined annual income for all people in the household include all income sources listed above, before taxes.

Total # of people in household	At or below	Between	At or above
1	\$20,748	\$20,749-\$29,526	\$29,527
2	\$28,132	\$28,133-\$40,034	\$40,035
3	\$35,516	\$35,517-\$50,542	\$50,543
4	\$42,900	\$42,901-\$61,050	\$61,051
5	\$50,284	\$50,285-\$71,558	\$71,559
6	\$57,668	\$57,669-\$82,066	\$82,067
7	\$65,052	\$65,053-\$92,574	\$92,575
8	\$72,436	\$72,437-\$103,082	\$103,083

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



Southwestern Telephone Directory

Business Office.....484-1136
District Office484-1136
District Office Fax .488-2442
Supt. Office Fax.....488-2442
Special Education. 664-4675
Technology483-5473
Transportation763-8391

Elementary School Pre-K through Grade 5

Main Office664-1881
Health Office.....484-6822
Attendance484-6823
Fax.....487-3170

Middle School-Grades 6-8

Main Office664-6270
Health Office.....484-6841
Guidance/
Attendance.....484-6842
Fax.....487-0855

High School-Grades 9-12

Main Office664-6273
Health Office.....664-6275
Guidance Office/Career
Center.....664-6276
Attendance484-6861
Fax.....484-1167

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

**SOUTHWESTERN
CENTRAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**
600 Hunt Road WE
Jamestown, NY 14701
Tel: 716-484-1136
www.swcsk12.org

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT No. 573
JAMESTOWN, NY

****ECRWSEDDM****
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Parents As Teachers Program

Parenting is hard. Wouldn't it be nice to have a guide along the way?

The Parents As Teachers (PAT) program provides free support and resources to families in the Southwestern Central School District, helping parents give their children the best possible start.

PAT serves families from pregnancy through kindergarten and 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 provide child development resources, developmental screenings and service referrals. Families may also participate in classroom visits, support groups, workshops and social opportunities that connect parents and children with other young families.

Focus Areas: The program focuses on parent empowerment through parent-led child interaction, developmentally



centered parenting and family well-being.

The program is available to families with young children, including younger siblings of school-aged children, who reside in the Southwestern Central School District.

Contact Southwestern Central School District for more information.

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

