SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Report

to the Board of Education

September 1, 2026

Every Student, One Community, Ready for the Future.

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

01 Welcome Back, Panthers!

02 Family Support Center

03 Professional Learning Plan

04 August Graduation

05 Let's Welcome New Staff

06 Opening Day

07 Traveling Board Meetings

08 Transportation Update

09 E-Scooter/E-Bike Safety

10 Middle School Drop-off Map

Welcome Back, Panthers!



Sweet Home Family Support Center Program

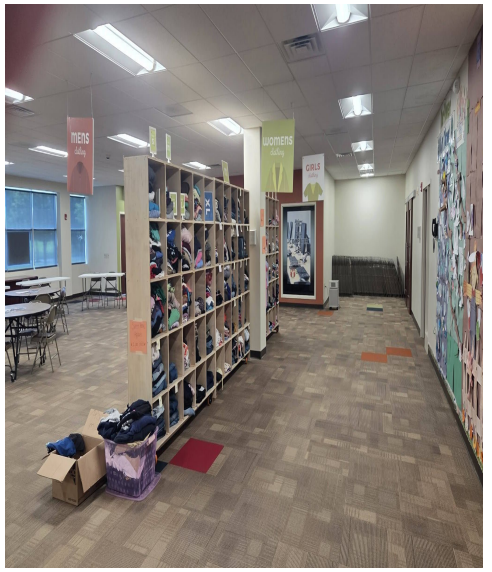
- Part of the continuum of district student services team
- Provide assistance when needs of students and/or families go beyond what building based student services team can provide
- Designed to be one stop shopping for families' needs
- Assessment/Consultation, Parent/Guardian Support, Family Workshops/Staff Development, linkage to community support and resources

What do we do?

- On site mental health counseling (66 students in 25-26) at Family Support Center (5 days a week), Middle School (4 days) Glendale (1 day) Ready Academy (1 day) provided by 3 agencies, 4 private practices
- School Supply Closet
- Clothing Closet
- Hygiene Closet
- Coordinate holiday assistance with Amherst Youth and Rec, Amherst Police Dept., Amherst Police Union, North Bailey Ladies Auxiliary
- Bring community providers to district: Health and Wellness Fair, Staff Development Day, Pop Up Pantry


BACK to SCHOOL
Pop-up Pantry




mens
womens
GIRLS


SCHOOL
Supplies





Our Collaborative Partners

- Amherst Police Department
- Amherst Youth & Community Coalition
- Amherst Senior Services
- Amherst Youth & Recreation Department
- BestSelf Behavioral Health
- Community Health Center of Buffalo
- Discovering Balance LLC
- Erie County Dept. of Social Services
- Envision Wellness
- Family Help Center
- Gateway-Longview Behavioral Health
- Help Me Grow
- HighMark BC/BS of WNY
- Horizon Health Services
- Just for Kids Child Care
- Matthew 25 Outreach
- Mindful Healing Connections, LLC
- Mental Health Advocates of Erie County
- New Directions Family Support Program
- New Purpose Counseling, LLC
- Parent Network of WNY
- People, Inc.
- Prevention Council of Erie County
- Sanctuary Counseling
- Sweet Home Therapy Corner
- Violanti Mental Health Counseling
- Williamsville Wellness Center, LLC

Other Community Partnerships

- Sneakers for Souls: Felician Community Services
- Roswell Mobile Screening Center
- I Support The Girls: Clothing/Hygiene Supplies
- Community Health Center of Buffalo Mobile Clinic
- UB Mobile Dental Van
- Sweet Home Black Panthers Alumni Association

And that isn't all.....

- Central Registration is based in the Family Support Center
- Build relationships with families from very first encounter
- Offer support and connections to meet needs
- Register all students CPSE-grade 12, Private/Charter School Students
- Handle all changes of address, residency issues, Mc Kinney Vento situations, custody/legal issues
- Interface with every department and building in the district

SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Professional Learning Plan 2026-2027

Presented by Katie Barillari

EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.

SWEET HOME CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mallory Pisarek	Maplemere Elementary School	Special Education Teacher
Marissa Dauria	Sweet Home Middle School	Principal
Elaina Blenk	Heritage Heights Elementary	Math Interventionist
Sharon Notaro	Willow Ridge Elementary	Math Interventionist
Kendra Ciezki	Glendale Elementary School	Social Worker
Karen DeLaPlante	Glendale Elementary School	Principal
Melinda DiBernardo	Glendale Elementary School	Library Media Specialist
David Etkin	Sweet Home Middle School	Grade 6 Teacher
Kathryn Barillari	District Office	Director of Special Programs
Lindsay Marcinelli	District Office	Assistant Director for Special Programs
Antonio Perry	Heritage Heights Elementary School	Principal
Paul Szymendera	Sweet Home High School	District Technology Coach/ TC Coordinator
Jeremy Traverse	Sweet Home Middle School	Grade 8 Science Teacher
Toyia Wilson	District Office	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction

EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.

Professional Learning Plan 2026-2027

The purpose of the Professional Learning Plan is to **improve** the quality of **teaching and learning** by ensuring that when teachers and leaders participate in substantial **professional learning** they have opportunities for **professional growth**, remain **current** with their profession, and **meet the learning needs** of their students.

2026-2027 Improvement Focus

1. Continue to work towards designing structures and activities to cultivate connection, build leadership, and promote student well-being, creating a strong sense of community.
2. Continue to foster a culture of inclusion and care where every SH community member feels supported and experiences a strong sense of belonging.
    a. Utilize culturally responsive practices to improve learning for all students.
3. Continue to revise the local K-12 curricula (curriculum and assessment) to meet the rigor of Next Generation Learning Standards and/ or New York State Learning standards, & New York State's Portrait of a Graduate.
4. Continue to strive towards building the capacity of teachers to utilize a focused set of best professional practices promoting higher levels of learning for all students.
5. Stay focused on revising and implement data analysis cycles/ protocols of state and local assessment data to identify trends in student performance and make instructional adjustments that are responsive to student needs.
6. Maintain the implementation of the meaningful integration of technology to deepen student engagement and personalize the learning experience.

EVERY STUDENT, ONE COMMUNITY, READY FOR THE FUTURE.

District Improvement Focus

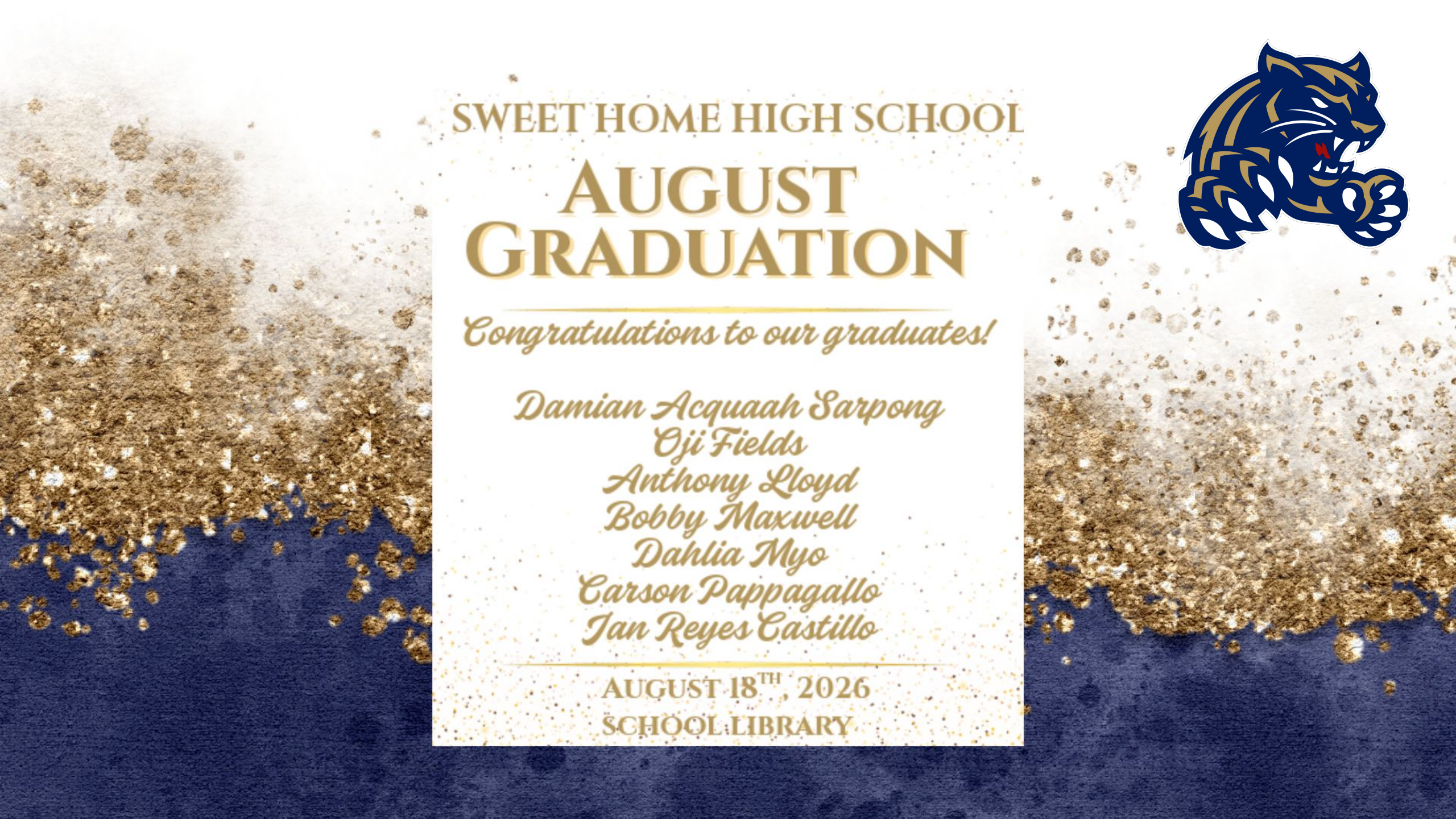
Long-Term Improvement Strategy	Major Area	Improvement Focus Activities
1. Intentionally designing structures and activities to cultivate connection, build leadership, and promote student well-being, which creates a strong sense of community.	• Safe, Respectful and Supportive Learning Environment • Program Design/ Delivery/ Professional Learning Communities • Responsive Teaching	***Strategic Plan Goal 3 Alignment*** ***High Level Examples*** Trauma-Informed/Sensitive Practices Restorative Practices Leader In Me
2. Foster a culture of inclusion and care where every SH community member feels supported and experiences a strong sense of belonging. • **Utilize culturally responsive practices to improve learning for students**	• Safe, Respectful and Supportive Learning Environment • NYS Framework for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/ Culturally Responsive Teaching • Program Design/ Delivery/ Professional Learning Communities	***Strategic Plan Goals 1, 2 & 3 Alignment*** ***High Level Examples*** Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) NYS DEI Initiative & Culturally Responsive Practices
3. Revise the local K-12 curricula (curriculum and assessment) to meet the rigor of Next Generation Learning Standards and/ or NYS Learning Standards & NYS Portrait of a Graduate.	• Program Design/ Delivery/ Professional Learning Communities • Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/ Culturally Responsive Teaching	***Strategic Plan Goals 1 & 2 Alignment*** ***High Level Examples*** Portrait of a Graduate

District Improvement Focus

Long-Term Improvement Strategy	Major Area	Improvement Focus Activities
4. Build the capacity of teachers to utilize a focused set of best professional practices promoting higher levels of learning for all students.	• Safe, Respectful and Supportive Learning Environment • Program Design/ Delivery/ Professional Learning Communities • Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/ Culturally Responsive Teaching • Responsive Teaching	***Strategic Plan Goals 1 & 2 Alignment*** ***High Level Examples*** Mentoring and New Teacher Induction Professional Learning Communities-Instructional Coaching Big Picture Learning Model Foundational Literacy- Literacy Lessons Early Childhood Math Routines
5. Revise and implement data analysis cycles/ protocols of state and local assessment data to identify trends in student performance and make instructional adjustments that are responsive to student needs.	• Responsive Teaching • Program Design/ Delivery/ Professional Learning Communities	***Strategic Plan Goals 1 & 3 Alignment*** ***High Level Examples*** Responsive Teaching & Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
6. Implement the meaningful integration of technology to deepen student engagement and personalize the learning experience.	• Technology Integration • Program Design/ Delivery/ Professional Learning Communities	***Strategic Plan Goals 1 & 2 Alignment*** ***High Level Examples*** Digital Citizenship Instructional Coaching

Thank You, Questions?




SWEET HOME HIGH SCHOOL
AUGUST GRADUATION
Congratulations to our graduates!
Damian Acquaah Sarpong
Oji Fields
Anthony Lloyd
Bobby Maxwell
Dahlia Myo
Carson Pappagallo
Jan Reyes Castillo
AUGUST 18TH, 2026
SCHOOL LIBRARY

Say Hello to our New Staff

Administrators

Cailynn Call - Administrator of Climate & Culture | Nina Colucci - HS Assistant Principal

Teachers

Elementary:
Sarah Acero-Grant
Avery Andrews
Emma Asklar
Anne Downing
*Nickolas Endres
Lauren Granieri
Griffin Harrigan
Liam Kelly
Jennifer Reyes
*Alexis Turan-Seaman
*Madison Gonzalez
*Mary Picciotto

Psychologists:
Paige Bressett
Leanne Hanlon

Social Worker:
Andrea Vu

Secondary:
Peter Blanford
John Calandra
Riley Connors
*Zachary Culp
Leah Czechowski
Elham Dehghanipour
Shannon Howe
*Tyler Kraft
Connor Pignatora
*Abbigail Ryan
*Annalise Scherer
Paul Schmidt

Service

Program Aide:
*Zachary Lippitt

Teacher Aides:
*Cattra Childs
*Taylor Diesing
*Loren Huff
*Bianca Jackson
*Jennifer Keller
*Nicole Murphy
*Sonali Patel
*Lauren Rutecki

Bus Monitor:
*Noel Carretero

Bus Driver:
*David Greco

Hall Monitor:
*Karen Schwier

Occupational Therapists:
*Monica Budziszewski
*Jessie Cecere
*Ashley Chorny
*Hannah Ciffa
*Rebecca Florentino
*Haylee Senay

Physical Therapists:
*Megon Gachette
*Annie Willsey

Hiring is ongoing — *additional positions remain open, and building placements will be confirmed as staff are assigned.*

Pending Board Approval

Opening Day Schedule

All Staff

7:30 a.m.

Coffee & Doughnut Mingle
on the HS Football Field
(weather permitting)

8:00 a.m.

Opening presentation with new staff introductions and Heart Awards

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9:15 a.m.

Travel back to buildings/departments

Instructional Staff

9:30 a.m.

Faculty meetings

11:00 a.m.

Lunch on your own

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Building dept. & grade level collaboration and rotational meetings with building administration

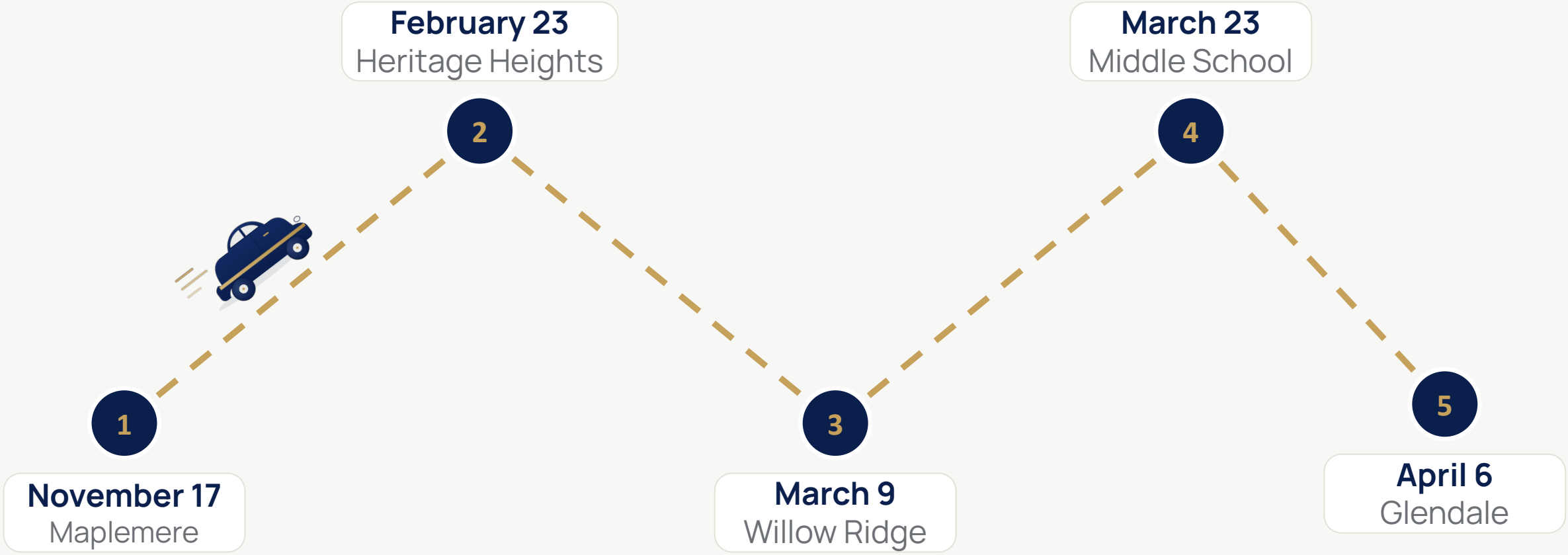
Service Employees

9:30 a.m.

Report to assigned building/department

- Supervisors will have specific schedules for their staff
- School-based, 10-month service employees (teacher aides, bus drivers, monitors, clerical, etc.) will have 4 hours of designated time to complete annual required training

Traveling Board Meetings Are Back



TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

What Families Need to Know Before Wednesday, September 9th

1 Bus Info Now Sent By Email. No Postcards!

Bus schedules and stop assignments will arrive by email instead of postcard, so families get the most current information. An email will be coming with a link to sign up if you're new to the app.

2 Primary Contact

Only the primary contact in PowerSchool receives the email. The StopFinder app lets you share info with the secondary contact listed in PowerSchool.

3 StopFinder App Is Live

Download the app now to view your child's bus number and pick up/drop-off times. Check often as details can change.

4 Yahoo Email Users

Whitelist **noreply@stopfinder.com** so the message lands in your inbox, not spam or junk.

5 Arrive 5 Minutes Early

Students should be at their bus stop 5 minutes before pickup time. Buses cannot wait for late students.

6 Learn More Online

Visit the Transportation page at **www.sweethomeschools.org/departments/transportation** for bus rules and safety.

E-Bike/E-Scooter Safety

Per New York State, you must:

- Be 16 years or older
- Obey all traffic laws

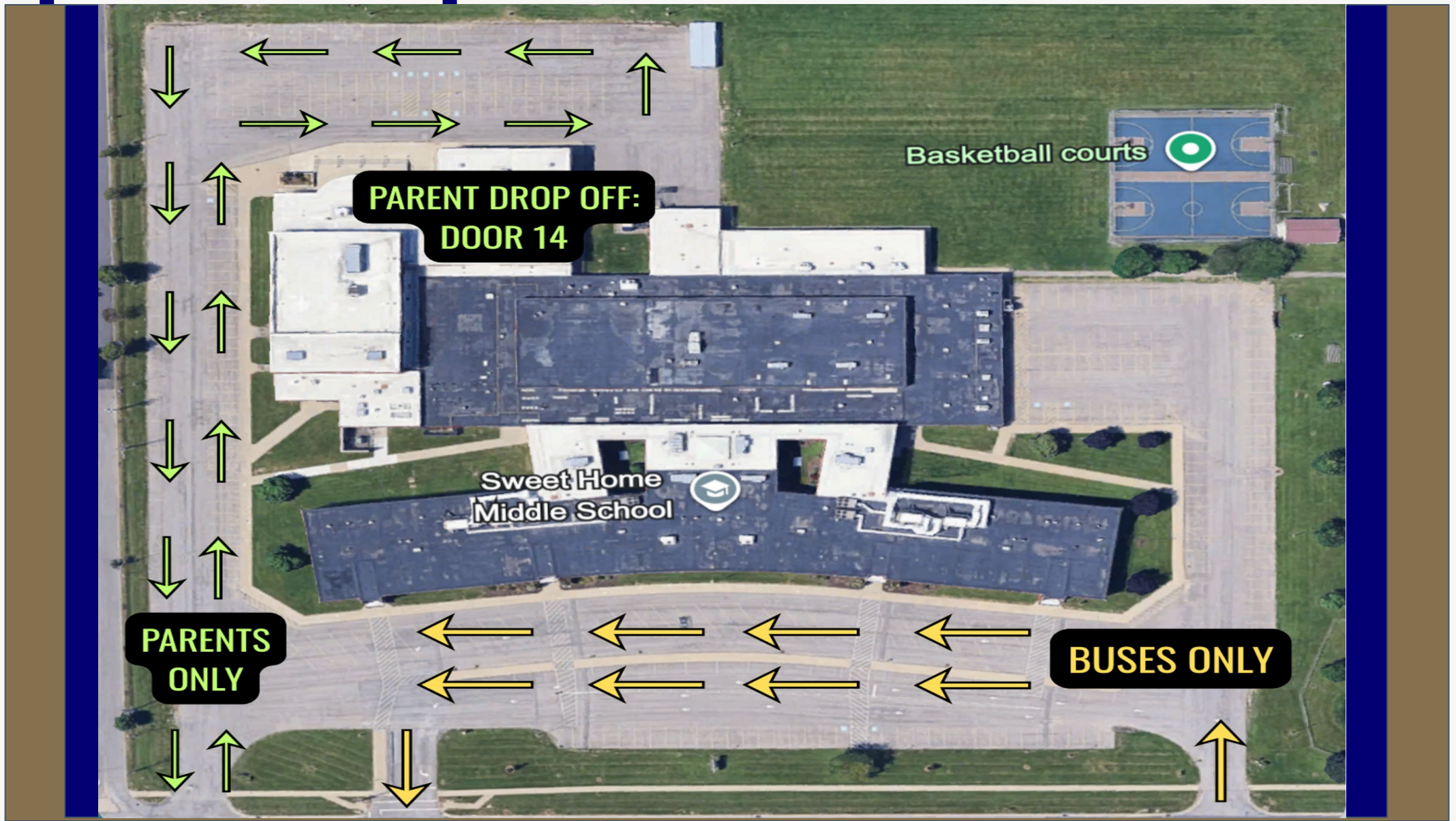
Failure to follow these rules:

- Revoked permission to ride on school grounds
- E-Bike/E-Scooter towed by APD

On Sweet Home CSD property, you must:

- Be 16 years or older
- Obey all traffic laws, and Sweet Home signs
- Wear a helmet
- Park in designated parking spots
- Register your E-Scooter/E-Bike with SH High School

Drop-off Map - Middle School



Questions & Discussion

Thank you to the Board of Education for your continued partnership.

Dr. Michael Ginestre • mginestre@sweethomeschools.org