



THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

South Woods Middle School October Updates



Dear South Woods Families,

It's truly remarkable how many opportunities South Woods offers our students. This is particularly clear in academics, the arts, music, theatre, drama, athletics, and a wide array of extracurricular activities, including various clubs. It's wonderful to witness so many students fully embracing what South Woods has to provide. This abundance of opportunities is what makes South Woods an exceptional middle school. As parents, you have every reason to feel proud!

Monthly Advisory Announcement:

The Advisory program creates a supportive, "mini family" environment designed to support middle school students' social-emotional development, sense of belonging, and character growth.

- **Community & Support:** Offers a safe space where students feel seen and valued while receiving dedicated social-emotional learning support.
- **Multi-Grade Leadership:** Combines 6th, 7th, and 8th graders to encourage peer mentoring and cross-grade friendships, with 2–3 student Advisory Leaders in each group driving peer leadership.
- **Structured Learning:** Uses monthly calendars, Google Classroom, and extended monthly sessions to explore themes like trust, empathy, teamwork, and schoolwide initiatives like "No Place for Hate."
- **Core Goal:** Acts as a daily anchor that prioritizes genuine connection, character building, and student empowerment.



THANK YOU

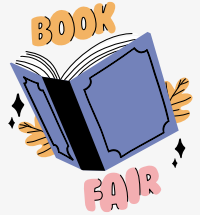
Thank you to our PTSA for organizing a fantastic 6th grade social on Thursday, October 1st. The courtyard was the perfect setting, and all your hard work truly showed. We are grateful for everything you do to create such wonderful memories.



Important Dates!

Book Fair

The South Woods PTSA is sponsoring a fantastic Book Fair on **Thursday, October 7th & Friday, October 8th** during ELA classes. Students will be thrilled with the selection of books, posters, and a host of other fun items. Please see the [flyer](#) for details.



Spirit Squad Support

The South Woods Spirit Squad encourages our whole community to honor special occasions this month:

- **Friday, October 9th** - Homecoming/Syosset PRIDE - wear **red**/white or SYO gear.
- **Friday, October 16th** - Breast Cancer Awareness Month - wear **pink**.
- **Wednesday, October 21st** - Unity Day - wear **orange**.

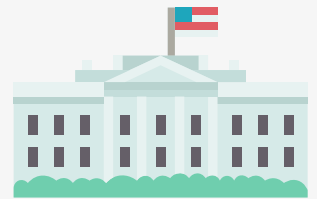


October School Closure

- Monday, October 12th - Columbus Day

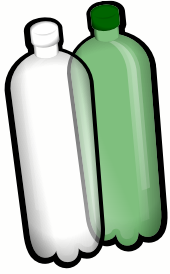
8th Grade Parents

Please mark your calendars for **Thursday, October 15th** for an OPTIONAL Washington, D.C. Parent Meeting at 4:00 PM in the South Woods Library. Can't make it? All information will also be shared with students in an in-school assembly.



Picture RETAKES

As a reminder, **Friday, November 13th** is Picture Makeup Day. Students will take their pictures during their lunch period. Students do not need to bring anything with them to retake their photo. Proofs containing ordering information will be sent home 3 to 4 weeks following Picture Day.



RECYCLE / REPURPOSE

During the month of October the Green Leaders and Impact Club will be collecting plastic bottles, plastic bottle caps and soda/drink can tabs to be repurposed. A bin will be made available in the lobby for the collection.



Students are welcome to wear Halloween costumes to school on **Friday, October 30th**. Non-offensive masks, wigs, and hats may be worn provided they go with the student's costume. Teachers may require students to remove any costume piece that is disruptive to learning and the classroom environment. No items are permitted that are in violation of the dress code and/or school Code of Conduct, including but not limited to fake weapons and full-face coverings.



Walk-A-Thon

We are excited for our annual Walk-A-Thon on **Friday, October 30th**. This year, the South Woods Student Council looks forward to supporting the Ronald McDonald House Foundation which provides aid to local pediatric cancer patients.



Candy Donation!



The South Woods Business Club and the Patriot Club are sponsoring Operation Sweet Tooth, an initiative that donates treats to local food pantries and the Long Island State Veterans Home. Please drop off your leftover candy in the Main Lobby from **October 28 to November 4**.



Reminders



- **Cell phones** must remain home or off in their lockers at all times.
- **Passing Time** between classes is four minutes.
- **Lockers** must be locked when not in use. Please do not share your combo!
- **Backpacks** - Large backpacks must be unpacked and stored in lockers. Students may carry a smaller string bag or side tote not to exceed 8" x 12" size for their smaller belongings.
- Our **Extra Help Schedule** is now posted on the school website.
- **Lunch Options:** Outdoor recess and lunch workshops are underway, and Advisory teachers will continue to share a growing list of options for students including Library passes, academic workshops, and enrichment.



The **Lost & Found** is growing by leaps and bounds. Please ask your student to check the table in the **North Cafeteria** for any lost clothing, lunch boxes, and water bottles, and the **Main Office** for keys, jewelry, and electronics.



Be prepared

Outdoor recess will continue as long as the ground stays dry and the temperature allows. Remember to come prepared with a jacket or sweatshirt and appropriate shoes. We strongly encourage outdoor recess and fresh air. There is no bad weather, only inappropriate clothing!

PTSA Updates

The South Woods PTSA is an instrumental partner, providing programming that includes author visits, assembly programs, and special events such as Multicultural Week. Please join! [PTSA Membership](#) is the PTSA's primary fundraiser that supports all of the above events and more. Membership also gives you access to the DirectorySpot app. For more information, see this [form](#).



- For questions regarding membership or DirectorySpot, please reach out to the SWPTSA directly at southwoodsptsa@gmail.com.

Reflections

"Reflections" is a National PTA arts recognition program for students in grades K-12. Students may enter in any of the categories: Visual Arts, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Dance Choreography, and Film Production. All participants will receive an award at a South Woods Reflections Ceremony! Any submitted works could result in awards at state and national levels. This year's theme is "What My Culture Means to Me."



Submit your form [HERE](#). Deadline for entries is **October 23rd**.



Next PTSA Meeting:

October 14th - In-Person at 7:45 PM in the South Woods Library.

Thank you as always for your trust in us as we work together to ensure a successful, safe year for all. We look forward to many more exciting events and activities - Please check the school calendar and our webpage regularly. Wishing you a beautiful fall!



Mr. Charlie Cardillo
Interim Principal

