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SOUTHMORELAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

**GREAT PENNSYLVANIA
SCHOOLS RECIPIENT**



ALL HAIL SOUTHMORELAND

Here's the Latest Scottie News:

Student Handbooks and Annual Public Notice

Girls Locker Room Ribbon Cutting Event

Scotties Steps to Kindergarten

Interact Club Earns Top Honors

PSAT 10/14/26

Reading Matters!!!



5 LOOKS



STUDENT HANDBOOK



**"CULTIVATING LIFELONG
LEARNERS READY FOR AN
EVER-CHANGING WORLD"**

**GREAT PENNSYLVANIA
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Student Handbooks and Annual Public Notice

As part of our commitment to keeping families informed and supporting the success of every student, we encourage you to review two important district resources: our **2026–2027 Student Handbooks** and **Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services**.

Our student handbooks provide valuable information about district programs, school procedures, student expectations, and policies that help ensure a safe and positive learning environment for all students.

The most up-to-date handbooks can be found at www.southmoreland.net by selecting **Schools → Your Child's School → Information → Handbook**.

Please note that handbooks are subject to change throughout the school year.

Additionally, our Annual Public Notice of Special Education Services provides families with important information regarding the identification, evaluation, and educational services available to students who may need additional support.

We encourage all families to take a few moments to familiarize themselves with these resources. Strong communication and informed families are essential to creating a successful educational experience for every student!

Thank you for your continued partnership and support!



**SOUTHMORELAND
ATHLETICS**

Please Join Us

**RIBBON CUTTING
CEREMONY**

**NEW GIRLS LOCKER ROOM
AT RUSS GRIMM FIELD**

 **WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 14, 2026**

 **6:00 PM**
*BEFORE THE FINAL
HOME GAME*

*Join us as we celebrate this exciting addition to Russ Grimm Field and our continued commitment to providing **safe, updated, and equitable** facilities for our students.*

**SOUTHMORELAND
SCOTTIES**

Girls Locker Room Ribbon Cutting Event

We are excited to invite our Southmoreland families, community members, and Girls Soccer alumni to a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our new Girls Locker Room at Russ Grimm Field on Wednesday, October 14, at 6:00 PM, prior to our final home girls soccer game.

This exciting addition reflects our continued commitment to providing safe, updated, and equitable facilities for our student-athletes.

We hope you can join us as we celebrate this important investment in our students and the future of Southmoreland Athletics!



**Help Your Little
Scottie Be Ready**



For Kindergarten!

Kindergarten Readiness Program

You are invited to attend four interactive family sessions designed to help your child transition into Kindergarten at Southmoreland School District.

These sessions will be presented by Southmoreland teachers in partnership with several local preschools.

The first session will focus on the importance of fine motor skills, following directions, and early letter formation. Families in attendance will learn about the key skills young children need in order to be successful as they begin their Kindergarten journey.

Who: Children entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2027 and their parents/guardians

When:

- Thursday, November 19th, 2026
- Thursday, February 11th, 2027
- Thursday, March 11th, 2027
- Thursday, April 15th, 2027

We suggest that you register to attend every session but it is not required. Due to space limitations, only 1 parent/guardian will be allowed to attend with the child.

Where: Southmoreland Primary Center

Time: 5:30-7 PM

RSVP: Please RSVP online by visiting tinyurl.com/scottiestepstok or scanning the QR code. Registration will close one week prior to each session.



If you have any questions please call Southmoreland Primary Center at 724-887-2026 or email Brian VanKirk at vankirkb@southmoreland.net

Scotties Steps to Kindergarten

Calling all future Scotties!

We are excited to introduce Scotties Steps to Kindergarten, a series of four interactive family sessions designed to help children entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2027 get a great start on their educational journey!

Led by Southmoreland teachers in partnership with local preschools, these sessions will help families develop important school-readiness skills, including fine motor development, following directions, and early writing skills.

Session Dates:

November 19, 2026

February 11, 2027

March 11, 2027

April 15, 2027

Time: 5:30–7:00 PM

Location: Southmoreland Primary Center

Families are encouraged to attend all four sessions, but attendance at every session is not required.

Register Here: <https://tinyurl.com/scottiestepstok>

Registration closes one week before each session. Due to space limitations, one parent or guardian may attend with each child.

We look forward to welcoming our youngest Scotties and helping them build the foundation for a successful start to school!



Interact Club Earns Top Honors

We have another great reason to celebrate Scottie Pride!

Congratulations to our Southmoreland High School Interact Club for earning **2nd Place for Interact Club of the Year** among more than 70 clubs at the recent Interact District Conference!

Additionally, students Caylin Raymond and Cassie Loop earned 1st Place in the Shark Tank competition, presenting their innovative community art auction project supporting disaster relief.

Throughout the past year, these outstanding students have raised thousands of dollars for charitable causes, supported families in need, volunteered throughout our communities, and created new opportunities for service and leadership.

What makes these accomplishments especially meaningful is that our students aren't simply participating in community service, they are identifying needs, developing solutions, and taking the initiative to make a difference in the lives of others.

A special thank you to Paul Johnson, the Scottsdale Rotary, and our dedicated students and advisors for demonstrating what it truly means to be a Scottie!

We couldn't be prouder of these young leaders and the positive impact they are making in our communities!



PSAT 10/14/26

This Wednesday, October 14, all juniors at Southmoreland High School will participate in the **PSAT (Preliminary SAT)** during the school day.

The PSAT provides students with a valuable opportunity to assess their college and career readiness, identify academic strengths and areas for growth, and gain experience with the format of the SAT. It can also help students explore future educational opportunities and potential scholarship pathways.

We encourage our juniors to get a good night's rest, eat a healthy breakfast, and come prepared to do their best!

This is another important step in helping our students prepare for success beyond high school.



Reading Matters!!!

Did you know that just 15–20 minutes of reading with your child each day can make a tremendous difference in their academic success and future opportunities?

Here are a few fascinating facts about the power of daily reading:

- 15 minutes a day adds up to more than 90 hours of reading each year!
- Reading just one book a day adds up to 365 books a year and more than 1,800 books over five years!
- Research from The Ohio State University estimates that children who are read one book daily hear approximately 290,000 more words by age five than children who are never read to.
- Strong early reading skills lay the foundation for future academic success, helping students develop the confidence and skills needed to become lifelong learners.
- Reading is about so much more than books. It's about opening doors to future opportunities! Children who develop strong literacy skills early in life are better prepared to succeed across all academic subjects, think critically, communicate effectively, and eventually pursue the careers and opportunities of their choosing.

The time you spend reading together today can help build the foundation for your child's success in school, in their future career, and throughout their life.

Whether you're reading a bedtime story, taking turns reading pages, or simply talking about a book, every minute matters!

You don't need to be a teacher to make a difference. You just need a book and a few minutes together!

Thank you for partnering with us as we work to cultivate lifelong learners ready for an ever-changing world!



At Southmoreland, we cultivate learners that.....

A

Accountability is developed through honesty, accepting responsibility, meeting obligations, learning from mistakes, fostering trust and reliability.

R

Resiliency involves bouncing back from challenges, adapting to adversity, maintaining optimism, persisting through difficulties, fostering strength and growth.

C

Citizenship is demonstrated through respectful behavior, participation, volunteering, and community service, fostering positive contributions.

E

Empathy is shown through understanding, compassion, perspective-taking, supporting others, fostering connection and mutual respect.



SOUTHMORELAND PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER
"CULTIVATING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS READY FOR AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD"

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"Cultivating Lifelong Learners Ready For An Ever-Changing World"

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