

September 2023

Volume 55, Issue 1

# SWIFT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Swift Middle School 1866 Robert Fulton Hwy.  
Quarryville, PA 17566 (717)-548-2187 [www.solanco.org](http://www.solanco.org)

Principal, Paul Gladfelter  
[paul\\_gladfelter@solancosd.org](mailto:paul_gladfelter@solancosd.org)  
Assistant Principal, John Dolan  
[john\\_dolan@solancosd.org](mailto:john_dolan@solancosd.org)

## Dear Swift Families,

September is **Attendance Awareness Month**, which is an ideal time to talk with your kids about the importance of attending school every day. Poor attendance patterns can have many long-term negative effects, but what we see most often is increased anxiety about school and a feeling of “not fitting in”. If there is something causing your child to miss school frequently, we encourage you to communicate with us so that we are best able to support them.

### According to Attendanceworks.org:

- By 6th grade, chronic absence becomes a leading indicator that a learner will drop out of high school.
- Absenteeism in the first month of school can predict poor attendance throughout the school year. Half the students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.
- When learners improve their attendance rates, they improve their academic prospects and chances for graduating.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.

### Three Ways to Encourage Positive Attendance:

1. Make school attendance a priority. Focus on routines, consistent sleep schedules, and pushing through the mornings when motivation is tough.
2. Communicate with the school. Let us know if there are concerns, and seek out support if there is a reason why attendance is poor.
3. Enforce positive attendance and have consequences for missing school unnecessarily.

We look forward to continuing to support your child/ren throughout the year in maintaining positive attendance habits.

Have a great month!

Paul Gladfelter

Principal

Swift Middle School (717) 548-2187

George A. Smith Middle School (717) 786-2244

**Connecting, Inspiring, Empowering**



# 6th Grade Team News

**Language Arts**- The sixth grade students will be examining character development and using the writing process to create a literary analysis.

**LEAD**- We are working on Goal Setting using the S.M.A.R.T. guidelines. Students will also be introduced to note-taking skills including H.O.T. T.I.P.S & Double Column Notes.

**Math**- Students will be studying a unit on Number Concepts. Topics covered will include real life applications of greatest common factors, least common multiples, integers, and rational numbers.

**Science**- We are going to be learning about the scientific method and how scientists use it to solve problems.

**Social Studies**- The students will be learning about map skills and applying them to a variety of resources.



## Counselor's Corner

Welcome back to a new and exciting school year. It was great seeing all the excited faces on the first day of school and to see how much the students grew up over the summer.

In September, I will be going in to the classrooms and talking to students about guidance services available at Swift. I will share the small groups we will be offering such as CARE (choosing appropriate responses everyday), Good Grief, Girls Group, Boys Group, and any other group as needed.

Looking forward to getting to know the learners. Do not hesitate to reach out at 717-548-2187 or [jennifer\\_pearson@solancosd.org](mailto:jennifer_pearson@solancosd.org)



## 7th Grade Team News

**Language Arts** - We are starting the year with a Literary Analysis of our summer reading, *Wonder*. After that, we will begin our Informational Nonfiction Unit, which centers on *The Great Fire*.

**LEAD** – Our LEAD journey begins with our Organization unit, where we establish a system to keep track of our physical objects as well as our time. We will also set goals and learn strategies to reach them.

**Math/Extensions** – We started the year by reviewing how to solve problems with integers. We will then move into a unit on number sense.



**Science** – Students will be practicing the scientific process while applying the common skills scientists use to detect and solve problems that exist in the universe around them. They will also investigate the structure of matter and different types of chemical bonds.

**Social Studies** – Learners will be starting the year learning about American Civics in seventh grade social studies. Topics that will be covered will be the Electoral College, three branches of government, political parties, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and more. Learners will have a variety of assignments and projects that will have them collaborate with each other in learning about our American government.

### The Nurse's Notes

The Health Hero flu shot clinic is coming to school on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to have your scholar participate, please return the completed permission slip no later than Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Nikki Bender, CSN

## 8th Grade Team News

**Language Arts** - ELA students will focus on our summer reading novel, *Fever 1793*, for the month of September as we get back into the swing of school!

**Pre and Advanced Algebra** - We will begin our foundations of algebraic thought by defining what math is, looking at the meanings of Domain and Range, Independent and Dependent variables and functions.

**Science** - The SSI has completed their Boot camp training and earned certifications in Lab Safety. Our first investigation will involve identification of a reactive, metallic rock like substance. Hopefully we can figure out who left this substance here at swift.

**Social Studies** – We are going to start off the school year jumping into the American Revolution! Students will analyze and discuss factors that led to the tensions between Great Britain and the colonists. Students will cover events and content like the Stamp Act, Boston Massacre, and the Boston Tea Party.

**Geography** – This course will commence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period.

**LEAD** - This month in LEAD, we will be working on finding books we love. We are also starting to work on goal setting and research skills.



# Related Arts Team News

## Art-

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade- Learning drawing techniques and applying these skills to a pattern drawing.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade- Creating an animal and portrait drawing using texture and value as the focus.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade- are working on graphic design/drawing to create the Solanco fair book cover.

## FACS-

- 6<sup>th</sup> grade – Will be learning about teamwork and problem solving, and sewing a quilt.
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade- Will be learning financial literacy skills such as managing accounts and purchasing, and then doing interior design projects.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade – Will be learning about child development, play, and literature.

## STEM-

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade students will learn about the basics of engineering and design, and will begin a design challenge related to structural engineering.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade students will explore some ways that technology impacts the environment and will explore water filtration and purification.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will explore genetics and genetic engineering, and then will explore nutrition in preparation for a study with lab rats.

## Tech. Ed-

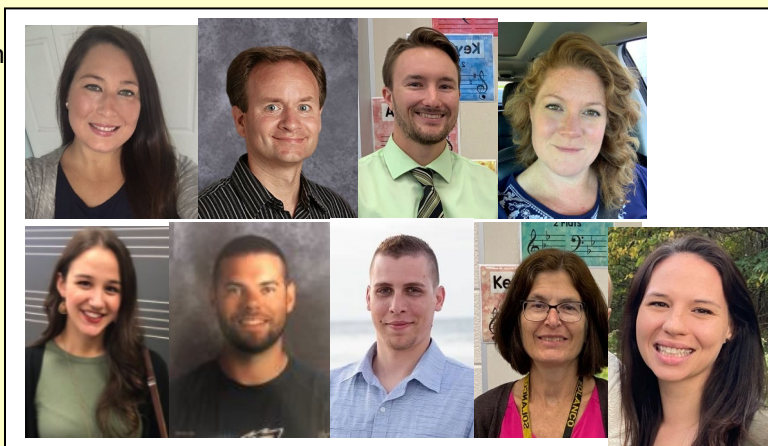
- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade- Designing, constructing, and testing mousetraps.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade- Designing and constructing towers.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Creating shirt designs on the computer that will then be printed on shirts.

## Music-

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade – Students are reviewing the basic elements of music through creative activities and performances, starting work with rhythm.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Students are reviewing elements of rhythm from last year and adding more rigorous rhythmic patterns and Boomwhacker performances.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Students are discussing the importance of music in our society, its functions in our lives and beginning a History of Rock & Roll unit.

## Phys. Ed-

- 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> – Assign locks & lockers; All grades are taking a personal fitness approach this year. Students will engage in activities that will improve their personal fitness. Girls' PE – field hockey; Boys' PE – Football.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Health – Introduction to Health Class; Unit on Making Healthy Choices. 2<sup>nd</sup> unit - Stress Management.



## Monthly Reminder:

- ✓ Check PowerSchool.
- ✓ Make sure lunch money is up to date.

## Upcoming Dates:

- Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> - Picture Day
- Oct 4<sup>th</sup> - PTO Meeting 3-4PM
- Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> - Schools Closed (WMUD)
- Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> - Columbus Day (Teacher In-Service)