

SWIFT MIDDLE SCHOOL

1866 Robert Fulton Hwy. Quarryville, PA 17566

717-548-2187

www.solancosd.org

January

2024

Counselor's Corner

Contact Mrs. Pearson at: jennifer_pearson@solancosd.org

The Guidance department continues to look at Careers in January as the 8th graders prepare to pick classes for the High School. Some important 8th grade events:

January 17 & 18- Smart Futures lesson in LEAD class

January 23 & 24- Course selection process and electives lesson in LEAD

January 29 & 30- Course Selection/ Senior Options/Recommendations Lesson in LEAD

February 1- Parent meeting during conferences @ 6:45pm in Auditorium

Week of February 5- meet with parents/students as requested (call to schedule an appointment will have evening appointments on February 5 & 6th)

February 15 & 16- Register for 9th grade classes and complete 9th grade plan in LEAD class



6th Grade Team News

Language Arts- In January, the sixth graders will be reading *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi as part of their fiction unit. The students will be concentrating on the elements of fiction such as theme and plot.

LEAD- Students will practice application skills in text structure and use various reference tools such as the dictionary and thesaurus.

Social Studies- In 6th grade social studies students will be learning about Ancient Egypt and China.

Science- During January, the sixth grade students will begin discussing the characteristics of living things as well as the difference between plant and animal cells.

Math- During January, students will be completing Unit 4 on writing and evaluating algebraic expressions. Learners will then begin Unit 5 on writing and solving algebraic equations.



Principal - Paul Gladfelter paul_gladfelter@solancosd.org

Assistant Principal - John Dolan john_dolan@solancosd.org

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7th Grade Team News

Language Arts - In January, we will do a Fiction Unit featuring the short stories "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Necklace."

LEAD - This month, students will practice their research skills by completing an informative writing slideshow project.

Math/Extensions - We will be completing a unit on solving multi-step equations.

Science - 7th Grade Scientists will be exploring how the plasma membrane allows certain molecules to move in and out of the cell to maintain homeostasis.

Social Studies - Learners will be starting a unit that covers Native American regions, tribes, and cultural characteristics. Learners will be working on a group research project where they will study a specific Native American region by studying its religion, shelter, food, etc. The month of January will end with a transition into the European Exploration Unit, which is a unit that will go into March.



8th Grade Team News

Language Arts - In ELA we will finish up our fiction unit Anton Chekhov's "The Bet". We will complete a midterm for all units for Semester 1. Then, we will begin our argumentative writing unit that includes an oral presentation.

LEAD - Students will continue to work on before-reading and during-reading strategies to improve reading comprehension.

Advanced Algebra - We will be covering creating equations for lines and variations.

Pre-Algebra - We will look at geometric ideas and quickly move into probabilities - both experimental and theoretical. Late in the month we should begin looking at the slope-intercept and point-slope form of line equations.

Science - The SSI will be joining forces with local engineers to create effective roll cages for cars. Agents will be developing, designing, testing and demonstrating their roll cages to a panel at the end of the month. Local engineers will be purchasing effective designs.

Social Studies - Students will be working on western expansion of the United States. Students will study the geography, history, and culture of the West. Specific topics include the Oregon Trail, Santa Fe Trail, and the California Gold Rush. Towards the end of the month, we will start to focus on regional differences of the North, South, and West.

Geography - The end of January will bring the beginning of Integrated Geography! We will begin our course with exploring our awesome Solanco School District. I look forward to meeting you all - Mrs. Mankin



Monthly
Reminders:

*Continue to check PowerSchool
*Make sure lunch money is up to date

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The Nurse's Corner

Dr. Miller, from Willow Street Dental, will be at school on Friday, February 23rd to offer free dental screenings for any 7th grade students who still need to have this completed. We will send home permission slips for any students who have not yet turned this in.

6th grade families, please be aware that two immunizations (TDAP and meningitis) are required for entry into 7th grade. If you have not submitted your learner's updated immunization record to the health room, please do so right away. Thank you!

Nikki Bender, CSN



Related Arts Team News

Art-

- 6th grade - creating
- 7th grade- Creating kinetic sculptures with fish mobiles.
- 8th grade-Will be working on small sculpture projects.

Computer Tech. -

- 8th grade -Students will be creating charts in Google sheets.
- 7th grade - Students will be starting Google sheets and adding basic formulas.
- 6th grade - Students will be creating presentations using Google slides.

Music-

- All students are practicing learning tablature and chords on ukulele. 7th and 8th Grade students are beginning ukulele karate.

Phys. Ed-

- 7th Grade Health - (Hoover, Belczyk) Fitness Unit
- 6th, 7th & 8th Physical Education - (Hoover, Belczyk) Volleyball

Technology Education -

- 6th Grade- Students are continuing to study the transportation unit by constructing and testing a boat.
- 7th Grade- Students are manufacturing small Shaker shelves with less guidance than they received on the previous project.
- 8th Grade- Students are completing their CO2 dragsters and racing them to see which is the fastest.

STEM-

- 6th Grade - Students will wrap up a buoyancy unit by designing and testing boats.
- 7th Grade - Students will wrap up STEM class by completing different digital photography challenges.
- 8th Grade - Students will finish the Sports Unit by completing their table-top miniature golf holes and playing through the class golf course.

Upcoming
Dates

*January 15 - Teacher In-Service (no school for students)

*January 22 - 91st Day (no school for students)