

SWIFT MIDDLE SCHOOL

1866 Robert Fulton Hwy. Quarryville, PA 17566

717-548-2187

www.solancosd.org

January

2025

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 9th & 10th - Smart Futures lesson/Showcase in Science class
- January 16th & 17th - Smart Futures lesson/Showcase in LEAD class
- January 29th & 30th - Course selection process/ High School electives /Recommendations Lesson in Science
- February 3rd and 4th - Smart Futures lesson/Showcase in LEAD class
- February 6th - Student Showcase and Parent meeting during conferences @ 6:45pm in Auditorium
- February 20th and 21st - Register for 9th grade classes and complete 9th grade plan



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- The sixth grade students will continue to discuss work, power, and simple machines. Students will create pinball machines that utilize a variety of levers while showcasing their creativity.

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



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 begin our Poetry Unit with select poems by Longfellow, Silverstein and Service.

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. We will also be working with the SSI agents in Science, to perfect our persuasive speech techniques to sell roll cages to the local engineers.

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

Pre-Algebra - We will begin looking at square roots and their applications. We will then 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 7th 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 - working on graphic design and creating a Zine.
- 7th grade- Creating water color paintings of trees and underwater animals
- 8th grade-Will be working on small sculpture clay tray projects.

Computer Tech. -

- 8th grade -Students will be adding functions and formats to Google sheets as well as creating charts and graphs.
- 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) Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs Unit
- 6th, 7th & 8th Physical Education - (Hoover, Belczyk) Floor Hockey

STEM-

- 6th Grade - Students will complete a buoyancy unit by designing and testing boats.
- 7th Grade - Students will wrap up STEM class by designing, building, and testing bridges.
- 8th Grade - Students will finalize their helmet project, and then will finish the Sports Unit by comparing different beverages and their electrolytes.



BAND

All Band students will receive their spring music very shortly! The theme for the spring concerts is MOVIES! We will resume our normal lesson schedule and Block 5 rehearsals this month. Here are some important dates to keep on your calendar:

- 2/26 - After-school rehearsal @ Swift 3-4:30 pm
- 3/24 - After-school rehearsal @ Smith 3-4:30 pm
- 4/23 - After-school rehearsal @ Swift 3-4:30 pm

- 5/5 - Dress rehearsal @ Smith during Blocks 1 & 2
- 5/6 - Spring Concert #1 @ Smith 7 pm
- 5/7 - Spring Concert #2 @ Swift 7 pm

ORCHESTRA

All Orchestra students will be starting their new music for the Spring Program We have an exciting line-up of Movie Theme music for the Spring!

Upcoming
Dates

*January 20 - Teacher In-Service (no school for students)

*January 23 - 91st Day (no school for students)