

SWIFT MIDDLE SCHOOL

1866 Robert Fulton Hwy. Quarryville, PA 17566

717-548-2187

www.solancosd.org

April
2025

Counselor's Corner

April is an exciting time at school but also can be overwhelming. Below is a great article to help navigate through these last few months of school.

WARNING-LOW BATTERY: How Introverts and Extroverts Recharge Their Social Batteries

According to a 2022 article in Medical News Today, a social battery is "the amount of energy a person has for socializing." Extroverts tend to have a longer social battery life than introverts however, they all need to be recharged in order to feel their best as they navigate the world. Extroverts recharge by being sociable. Regular playdates and get together with family and friends, participation in clubs or group activities, and opportunities to attend sporting events, concerts, or other large gatherings can all provide an energy boost for extroverts. In contrast, introverts have a shorter social battery life and need to be aware of when the low battery indicator comes on. Introverts recharge through solitary activities such as quiet walks in nature, time to work independently on such things as arts and crafts or legos, reading a book, or relaxing in front of the tv. They may benefit from scheduled breaks during full-day social activities. You can also provide your introvert with an "escape hatch" in social situations by teaching and practicing meditation strategies that they can employ when feeling overwhelmed in the moment.

Villines, Zawn, What is a Social Battery? Medical News Today, 10, May 2022.



8th Grade Team News

Pre-Algebra - We will begin April by finishing up our unit on inequalities and move into exponents in conjunction with PSSA reviews.

ADV Algebra - We will begin April by finishing up our unit on exponents and their simplifications and move into polynomial manipulations in conjunction with Keystone reviews.

Geography - Students will be planning an ultimate vacation around our great United States, followed up by a visit to our neighbors to the North, Canada.

ELA - We will conclude our novel study of *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt. We will then complete our last writing unit of the year by creating an original short story.

Social Studies - For the month of April, students will be wrapping up the Civil War unit. Students will have a Civil War test towards the beginning of April. We will then cover Reconstruction and the West!

LEAD - we will be working on a Wild Wild West project with Social Studies, and test taking strategies.

Science - The SSI is will be determining the cause of the large hail that was recorded by our suspects and will start to process the genetic evidence found at the abandoned boy scout camp.



Principal - Paul Gladfelter paul_gladfelter@solancosd.org

Assistant Principal - John Dolan john_dolan@solancosd.org

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7th Grade Team News

Science: In the month of April, the 7th Swift scientists will be extending upon their understanding of chromosomes and how their genetic code translates into your traits in our genetics unit. Students will also investigate how electromagnets react based on charges, currents, magnetic strengths, and the distances between the interacting objects.

ELA: For April, we will be finishing our Literary Nonfiction Unit. Then, we will work on writing a Personal Narrative.

Math: In math class, the students will be completing a unit on statistics followed by a unit on probability.

LEAD: During the month of April, we will be reading *Island of The Blue Dolphins*.

Social Studies: Learners in seventh grade social studies will be continuing their unit of European Settlement for the month of April. Topics that will be included in this unit will be Roanoke, Jamestown, Plymouth, puritans & pilgrims, 13 colonies, and more. Learners will have a test at the end of the unit to assess their knowledge of the entire unit, which will take place in mid-May.



6th Grade Team News

Language Arts- In April, the students will be reading *The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller to understand the characteristics of Literary Non-Fiction.

LEAD- Students will begin their unit on Public Speaking. First, they will be introduced to both speaking and listening skills. Next, they will be giving a demonstration speech, which includes designing their own thesis statement and creating a slideshow to accompany their speech. Finally students will present their demonstration speeches live to their classmates.

Social Studies- In April Social Studies will be learning about Ancient Rome and Developing Western Europe.

Science- - Students be learning about environment and ecology with a focus on the interactions among species.

Math- In April students will be working on a unit covering Data, Statistics, and Graphs. The month will conclude with a review of key concepts that will be included on this year's 6th PSSA Math tests.



Monthly
Reminders:

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

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The Nurse's Corner

The mobile dentist will be at school April 15-17. They provide cleanings, fluoride, x-rays, sealants, and are able to fill most cavities. If your child is covered by Medicaid or CHIP, this service is free (as long as they haven't been to the dentist in that past six months). Everyone else is welcome to apply as well, as they will work with your dental insurance or permit you to pay a discounted rate or request donated care. Please send any questions to Mrs. Bender!

Nikki Bender, CSN



Related Arts Team News

Technology Education -

In 6th grade Technology Education, students are studying transportation by designing and racing a magnetic levitation car.

7th grade is testing their construction towers and then will begin a unit on manufacturing.

8th grade will finish their electronics unit and begin to design their CO2 dragsters.

STEM-

6th grade students will explore physics concepts by designing and building catapults.

7th grade students are designing board games for elementary school students that incorporate electrical circuits.

8th grade students will wrap up a nutrition study and then will demonstrate their understanding of prosthetics.

Music-

6th grade is exploring elements of rhythm including: melody, harmony, rhythm, tempo, texture, and form

7th grade is working on composing their own melodies using soundtrap and midi keyboards

8th grade is beginning their world drumming ensemble and working on their musical independence, teamwork, and leadership skills.

Art-

6th grade is working on a 3-D sculpture of a favorite meal using paper
7th - will be working on a self-portrait, and a collage showcasing their homage and satire of themselves.

8th - will be learning about print making with styrofoam print block and modifications

FACS

6th grade will be learning basic sewing skills and teamwork, time management, and problem solving.

7th grade will be learning about personal finance/budgeting, making smart purchases, and interior design.

8th grade will be learning about child development with topics of safety, play, and children's literature.



Health:

7th grade students will be focusing on human growth and development.

PE:

6th-7th-8th grade students will be focusing on Soccer.

Orchestra

Middle School Orchestra members have been doing a great job learning their music as we gear up for our May 6 and May 8 Spring Concerts. Please put the following dates on your calendar if you haven't already: May 6th Concert will be at Smith and May 8th will be at Swift. Both programs will start at 7:00pm. The Ensemble Group is also getting ready for the April 22nd Program at the High School. That program is also at 7:00pm. Thanks for sending great children for me to work with!

Band

Concert Band members are hard at work preparing for our spring concerts! There are TWO concerts this spring - May 6th at Smith MS and May 8th at Swift MS. All band members are expected to attend each concert, regardless of which school they attend. In addition to Concert Band, Jazz Band is also holding two of its own concerts this year: April 14 - this is our annual Jazz Festival collaboration with Pequea Valley, this year at our high school; and April 22 - this is the annual Small Ensembles concert at the high school. All concerts this spring begin at 7 pm, and students should arrive a full 30-minutes before the concert begins. Remember - Concert BLACK for attire!

Upcoming
Dates

*April 1 - End of 3rd Marking Period

*PSSA Testing - April 22-24 (ELA); April 28-29 (Math); April 30-May 1 (Science - 8th)