

SWIFT MIDDLE SCHOOL

1866 Robert Fulton Hwy. Quarryville, PA 17566

717-548-2187

www.solancosd.org

May/June
2025

Counselor's Corner

As we approach May, our 6th grade students will have the opportunity to explore various hobbies and organizations available within the Solanco community. On May 30th, we will feature approximately 40 different clubs and activities for 6th grade students to check out. I would also like to take this moment to extend my best wishes to the current 8th grade students as they transition from middle school to high school—exciting possibilities await them. Wishing everyone a fantastic summer, and we look forward to seeing you in August!



7th Grade Team News

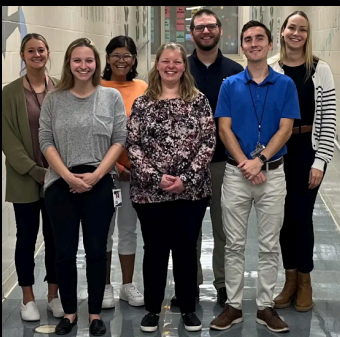
ELA - In May and June, students will conclude the year with the second half of our Fiction unit. We will review terms like theme, plot, characters, figurative language and tone. This will all be done through our final novel, *Call of the Wild* by Jack London.

Math - In math class, we are completing an algebra unit on writing and graphing equations in slope-intercept form. Once this unit is completed we will spend some time reviewing what we learned this year and taking the final exam.

LEAD - Students in LEAD will complete their reading and analysis of *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell. Next, students will enhance their communication skills by creating a presentation as part of our Speaking and Listening Unit.

Science - In May and June, the Swift Scientists will investigate how wetlands and local watersheds are impacted by the land use surrounding them, improving their environmental literacy. Students will then take action to change how they and possibly individuals in our townships use that land to improve the quality of the water and provide a more sustainable future for the local community and the organisms that live within it.

Social Studies - Learners will continue learning about European settlement with topics such as Jamestown, 13 colonies (upper, middle and southern), William Penn, and more. Learners will be assessed on their knowledge of the European Settlement Unit with a test in mid-May. The school year will end with a mini unit on the French & Indian War before learners take a cumulative final for their seventh-grade social studies class in the first week of June.



Principal - Paul Gladfelter paul_gladfelter@solancosd.org

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8th Grade Team News

ELA - We will wrap up the year with our Drama unit ("Romeo and Juliet" by William Shakespeare) and our Short Story unit. Please be on the lookout for summer reading assignments at the end of May!

Advanced Algebra - We will be focusing on Keystone topics and preparations.

Pre- Algebra - We will finish our unit on exponents and move onto systems of equations.

LEAD - We will be ending the year by studying Greek Mythology.

Science - The SSI and its agents will be investigating a crime scene to collect and understand data on DNA, mutations, chromosomes, genetics, and development of species. We hope to solve the mystery of the thugs we have been chasing since the delivery of the suspicious package in September.

Social Studies - We are working on Western expansion with a project on the West! During May, students will be learning about Reconstruction and the early 1900s.

Geography - We will visit our neighbors to the north and the south to end the year. Canada will be our first focus, learning the provinces, people, government and economy. Secondly, Latin America to our south will be the last unit, and we will also learn the countries, people, famous sites and important historic events from this region. We will compare the ways we (Americans) are alike and different from our neighbors.



6th Grade Team News

Language Arts - The students will be reading The Story of My Life by Helen Keller to understand the characteristics of Literary Non-Fiction and finish up the year with The Twenty-One Balloons by William Pene du Bois.

LEAD - Students will be continuing their work on various speeches in LEAD class. In May and June, students will be finishing their informative speeches, designing a recording a travel commercial for a destination of their choosing. Additionally, students will finish the year by designing and recording a PSA for their final speech, a persuasive speech.

Social Studies - Social Studies will focus on the Dark Ages, Renaissance/Reformation, and Ancient Japan.

Science - Learners will focus on creating a website that highlights curricular concepts connected to our school's environmental site.

Math - During the months of May and June students will finish up their data and statistics project and take their final exam. Students will begin to work with negative numbers in preparation for seventh grade.



Monthly
Reminders:

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

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The Nurse's Corner

Parents/Guardians of 6th Grade Learners: Please remember that documentation of the TDaP and meningitis immunizations (or a completed exemption form) must be on file BEFORE the first day of 7th grade in order for your learner to start on time. Reminders will be sent home with 4th marking period report cards for students who still need to complete this. Please send these records to school as soon as possible!

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. This will be followed by a unit on boats!

7th grade has begun a unit on manufacturing where they will make two wood projects.

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 painting project and learning about graphic design with a book cover revamp

7th - will be learning water color techniques and finishing their coiled basket sculptures

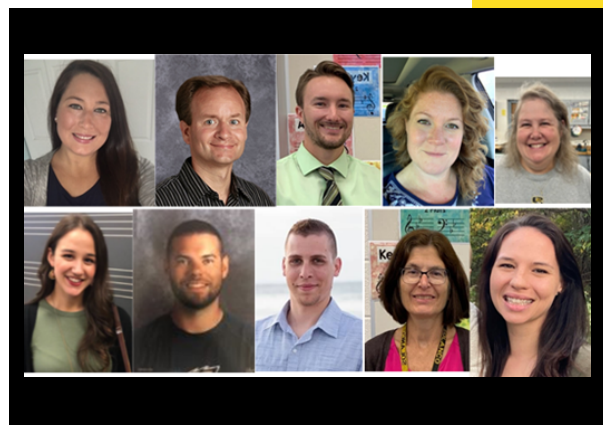
8th - Students will learn about acrylic painting and mural/public art through Graffiti and public art research.

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 and Fitness Testing

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. 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. 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

*May 26- Memorial Day (No School)

*June 9 - Last Day of School