



Swartz Creek Middle School Family Newsletter

Issue Published: January 13, 2026

District Mission Statement: *Swartz Creek Community Schools is a family committed to excellence, instilling the values of integrity and compassion, and encouraging every individual to embrace challenges through continuous learning*

Principal's Message



Dear Families,

Last week and this week students will be participating in their NWEA assessments. These assessments help us better understand each child's academic strengths and areas for growth, and they support teachers in planning instruction that meets students where they are.

One important schoolwide focus we are emphasizing during testing is slowing down and taking time to do one's best work. We are reminding students that NWEA is not a race.

Thoughtful reading, careful problem-solving, and checking their work all help ensure the results truly reflect what they know and can do. To better support students we are only testing them with 20 questions at a time rather than the entire 40 questions. We are doing this so they learn to take it slow and serious, and to also realize they can do hard things by taking small bites out of it at a time.

You can support your child at home by:

- Encouraging them to take their time and not rush through questions
- Reminding them that effort matters more than finishing quickly
- Making sure they get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast on testing days

We are proud of how our students are approaching testing with responsibility and perseverance, and we appreciate your continued partnership in reinforcing these positive habits.

Thank you for your support as we work together to help every student succeed!

Warm regards,

R.J. Kaplan
SCMS Principal

Upcoming Events & Planning Ahead

1/15 - Chorus Concert 7PM

1/19 - No School K-12 MLK Day

1/23 - Half Day AM K- 12 (MS Dismissal at 10:51AM) End of Semester One

1/28 - NJHS Mtg 2:45PM

This calendar is helpful for parents as you plan ahead for days off school, ½ days, and so forth for the school year. Click here to see: [2025-2026 District Calendar](#)

AP's Points

The SCMS assistant principals are here to help! Please do not hesitate to contact one of us or our secretary, Lisa Mokofsky (810-591-1707).

Anderson Announcements



TOPIC: Why “I’ll respect you if you respect me first,” makes no sense.

Happy New Year! 🎉 We can still say that in the middle of January, right?

With the new year often comes resolutions. A good one to consider is focusing even more on teaching our young people the value of being respectful. We inherently know that being respectful is good, but what is it really? Many people confuse earning respect for being respectful. Although the terms are very similar, there is a distinct difference.

Being respectful is something you choose to do every day. It means how you treat others with your words, actions, and attitude. Being respectful looks like listening when someone else is talking, following directions the first time, using kind language, and keeping your hands to yourself. You don’t have to agree with someone to be respectful—you just need to treat them the way you want to be treated. **Respect starts with you and doesn’t depend on what anyone else does.** Being respectful offers you more choices and more positive outcomes.

Earning respect happens over time. People respect you when they see that you make good choices consistently, take responsibility for your actions, and do the right thing even when no one is watching. Earning respect means being honest, owning mistakes, and showing self-control, especially in tough moments. While you can choose to be respectful right away, earning respect is something you build by showing others they can trust you.

So, the next time your middle schooler comes at you with “I’ll respect you if you respect me first,” you can remind them what that actually means and encourage them to be respectful to all adults at home and at school.

♥ **Dragons!**

Theresa Anderson, Assistant Principal

tanderson@swcrk.org

Spencer Speaks

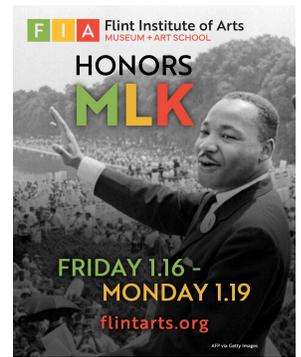


Dragon Families, as we welcome students back from winter break, I want to celebrate the upcoming end of our first semester. Now is the time to buckle down and finish strong. Congratulations to our students for a strong first semester. Over the past few months, students have worked hard academically, built strong relationships, and demonstrated resilience as learners. Our staff is proud of the progress we’ve seen in classrooms, activities, and throughout the building.

Next week, we also honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King’s message of equality, justice, service, and respect continues to guide and inspire. At SCMS, we are committed to creating a learning

environment where every student feels safe, valued, included, and supported.

We are proud of the diverse backgrounds, cultures, experiences, and perspectives represented in our school community. These differences strengthen us and help prepare our students to be thoughtful, respectful citizens. We encourage families to continue conversations at home about kindness, inclusion, and standing up for others, reinforcing the values we work to model each day at school. If you are looking for some family-friendly celebration of MLK, check out the [FIA on Monday for Events](#):



TOPICS: As the father of a middle schooler myself, I was inspired to share a couple of topics that have come up in our household recently:

- 1. Owning our choices.** I firmly believe that learning from mistakes and understanding that actions, both positive and negative, have consequences. In our house, we talk a lot about being honest, accepting responsibility, and focusing on how to make things right and do better next time. Those same lessons apply at school, and when students practice accountability, listening to feedback, owning their actions, and following through, they build trust, confidence, and strong character. I appreciate the partnership with families as we work together to support students in growing into responsible and respectful young people.
- 2. Device/Screen Boundaries.** We thank all families for continuing to have conversations about setting clear expectations around phones and technology and talking through why those boundaries exist. Helping students understand when and how devices should be used, and holding them accountable when expectations aren't met, is critical to help our children be safe and healthy.

Bell-to-Bell Device Reminder:

As a reminder, phones, smart watches, earbuds, headphones, and other personal communication devices are not allowed at any time or anywhere from bell to bell (7:25–2:30). Cell phones and earbuds must be silenced and kept completely out of sight throughout the school day. Students have three appropriate storage options for devices: in a locker, in a pencil pouch, or left at home. Devices should not be kept in pockets, waistbands, or clothing.

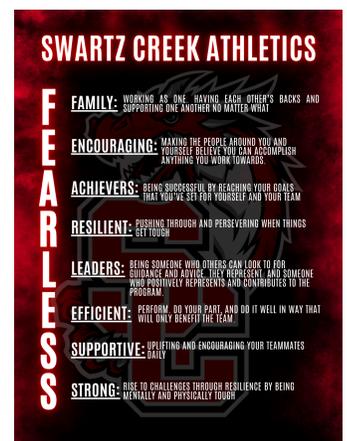
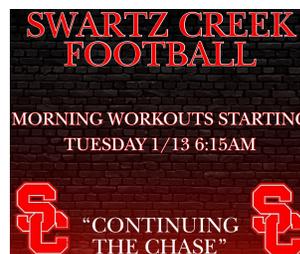
Thank you, Dragon Families, for your continued partnership and support. As we move into the second half of the year, we are excited about the learning, growth, and opportunities ahead. Together, we will continue to support our students as they learn, lead, and belong.

Spencer's quote of the week: "The time is always right to do what is right."
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Athletics

Winter 2 Season is underway! As we begin new seasons for Boys Basketball, Competitive Cheer, Archery, and Co-Ed Swim & Dive, I want to remind everyone of academic eligibility and CREEK score eligibility checks. Our office will be checking grades and scores weekly and informing students of any warnings or ineligibility each Friday for the following week's contests. Let's Go Dragons as we prepare to be #Fearless in competition and in the classroom.

I ask that parents and athletes please remember to make sportsmanship paramount in the athletic events they attend.



Here are some important links for athletics:

[MS Sports Athletic Informational Page](#)

[Athletic Schedules](#)

[Athletic Boosters](#)

Please direct questions to the Athletic Office 810-591-1808

Joe Spencer
Asst. Principal

Counselors' Corner

6th and 7th Grade

As technology and vaping become more available to students, a special online safety and vaping presentation has been planned to be presented to all 6th and 7th grade students to address cyberbullying, high risk online activities, and the dangers of vaping. This safety presentation will be delivered by Michigan State Police Community Liaison Troopers Amy Belanger and Steve Kramer. The 6th grade presentation will take place on January 6th and 7th in students' Science classes. The 7th grade presentation will take place on January 8th and 20th in students' Science classes. If you wish to opt your child out of this presentation please contact their school counselor.

8th Grade

As the growing awareness of human trafficking in Michigan increases, a presentation has been planned for all 8th grade students presented by Michigan State Troopers. Objectives for the lesson include:

- Defining Human Trafficking
- Identifying how teens are targeted (grooming and warning signs)
- Learning how to get help and who to tell

Students will learn two different types of human trafficking: labor trafficking and sex trafficking. The lesson will focus specifically on sex trafficking and how children and teens are targeted. Students will learn what to look for and how to keep themselves safe. Students will be given the presentation during their Science class on January 21st and 22nd. In addition students will see examples related to human sex trafficking, as well as a documentary entitled *Chosen*, produced and directed by Shared Hope International. This documentary depicts two teenage girls and how they were targeted, groomed and brought into human sex trafficking. If you wish to opt your child out of this presentation please contact their school counselor.

Mrs. Sheeran (last names A-K)
jsheeran@swcrk.org

Mrs. Shreve (last names L-Z)
ashreve@swcrk.org

PTO News

Involvement from more parents strengthens our organization and benefits our kids. 🎉 You could attend the monthly meetings to help with the planning process, volunteer at various events, or donate needed items. Please consider getting involved! 😊 To volunteer or to get more information email: swcrkms.pto@gmail.com or check out Facebook at www.facebook.com/SCMSPTO, or take a look at the Middle School webpage under the *School Information* tab. The PTO also has a mailbox 📬 in the SCMS Main Office where messages or items can be dropped off.

Our next PTO Meeting is February 12th, 2025 at 5PM

Crystal Kujacznski- President Amanda Ward- Vice President
Christina Melton- Secretary Rick Boelk- Treasurer Gina Stevens- Representative

DC TRIP Club News

Attention 8th grade families and students! The Washington DC Club Parent/Student meeting is February 3rd, at 6:30PM. All information for the DC Trip Club can be found on the Middle School website under the "clubs" portion of our site.

Yearbook

Preserve the Memories - Order Your 2026 SCMS Yearbook! Click this link: [Swartz Creek Middle School Yearbook](#) to purchase your yearbook now on sale for \$48.

For 8th Grade Families! Make your Student's final SCMS year extra special by purchasing a Proud Parent Ad by clicking this link: [Proud Parent Ad](#) — available for only \$30.



Attendance - Working Together to Support Students

We understand that getting students to school every day can sometimes be challenging. Busy mornings, transportation issues, health concerns, and family responsibilities can all make regular attendance difficult. We truly appreciate the efforts you make to support your child.

Consistent attendance is important for student success and team reliability. When students are present, they stay connected to learning, build strong relationships with peers and teachers, and develop responsibility and accountability. Each day in school helps students feel prepared, confident, and part of the team.

Our goal is to partner with families to support students. If attendance has been a challenge, we want to work with you and your child to create a plan that helps them succeed. This plan may include setting routines, identifying barriers to attendance, or connecting families with school resources and support. We believe that with communication and teamwork, positive progress is possible.

If your family is experiencing ongoing challenges that affect attendance, please reach out to us. We are here to listen and help find solutions—not to place blame. Even small improvements can make a big difference over time.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to your child's success. Together, we can help students build strong habits that support their learning now and in the future.

Sincerely,

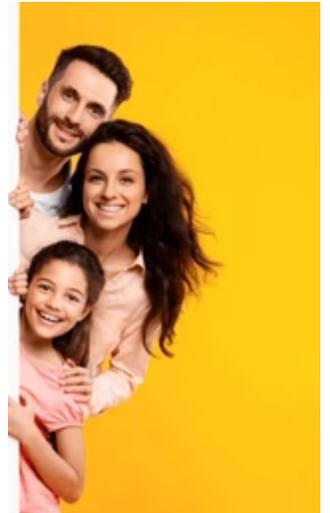
Makenzie Wirick
Student Success Coordinator
(810)-591-1765
mwirick@swcrk.org

PowerParent- get a SNEAK PEEK @ GRADES

Student's receiving a 1 or 2-2's in powerschool should now see these scores reflected as notes at the top of your child's gradebook screen.

Get Instant Access to Your Child's Academics!

- Set up your PowerParent Account and make sure you have access ([Directions for Account Setup](#))
- Update your Emergency Contacts and ensure that the information in your account is accurate
- If you have difficulty accessing your PowerSchool Parent Portal account please email Stephanie Chaney our new secretary at schaney@swcrk.org and she will reach out to you.



Medication

If your child has to take medication during the school year please stop by the office to fill out the appropriate forms and bring in the medication in their original bottles. DO NOT send medication in with students as this is a safety concern and against district policy. [You can access all relevant Medical Forms here.](#)

Staff Directory and Contact Information

If you are looking for contact information for any of our teachers and support staff, please follow this link:

<https://ms.swartzcreek.org/o/scms/staff>

Mr. Kaplan, Principal rkaplan@swcrk.org (810)591-1704
Mrs. LeGrow, Principal's Secretary dlegrow@swcrk.org (810)591-1704
Mrs. Anderson, Assistant Principal tanderson@swcrk.org (810)591-1706
Joe Spencer, Assistant Principal/MS Athletics jspencer@swcrk.org (810)591-1708
Mrs. Mokofsky, Assistant Principal's Secretary lmokofsky@swcrk.org (810)591-1707
Mrs. Chaney, Counseling Secretary schaney@swcrk.org (810)591-1709
Mrs. Sheeran, Counselor (Last Names A-L) jsheeran@swcrk.org (810)591-1713
Mrs. Shreve, Counselor (Last Names M-Z) ashreve@swcrk.org (810)591-1714
Mr. Miehm, Transportation Secretary jmiehm@swcrk.org 810-591-2113
Administration Building 810-591-2300

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or social media platform of your choice:

