Swartz Creek Middle School
Family Newsletter

Issue Published: November 1, 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



Topic: MP1 Finishing Strong & Gratitude:

As we welcome November at Swartz Creek Middle School, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for. 🍂 Our students continue to grow academically, socially, and emotionally, and we are grateful for the dedicated staff and supportive families who help make that growth possible. Middle school can be an exciting yet challenging time as students learn to navigate friendships, manage responsibilities, and become more independent. As parents, taking time to ask your child about their day, celebrate their successes, and listen to their concerns can make a meaningful difference. Even small moments of connection help remind our children that they are supported and valued.

📚November is also a great time to check in on your child's academic progress, review missing assignments, and encourage them to finish the first part of the school year strong. Our staff is working diligently to strengthen teaching and learning throughout the building and ensure that every student has the tools and support needed to succeed. We are continually refining our instructional practices, setting high expectations, and helping students develop the skills and confidence they need to grow academically. 🤓 Our goal is to empower students to take ownership of their learning, recognize their progress, and demonstrate measurable improvements in their academic performance and assessment scores. We appreciate your partnership as we work together to help every student reach their full potential! 🏁

As we approach Thanksgiving break, I encourage our families to focus on gratitude, kindness, and the importance of making positive choices. 💖A simple act of kindness, a word of encouragement, or a willingness to include someone who feels left out can have a lasting impact on our school community. Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Swartz Creek Middle School. I am thankful to be part of a community that works together to help our Dragons succeed. I wish all of our families a safe, restful, and happy Thanksgiving!🦃

Go Dragons!

Theresa Anderson, Principal
tanderson@swcrk.org

Parent-Teacher Conferences

The end of our First Marking period is 10/30/26. Fall parent-teacher conferences will be held on the evenings of Nov. 10th & 12th, use this link to **sign up for a time slot to see your child's teachers** on those days:

https://ptcfast.com/schools/Swartz_Creek_Middle_School

After scheduling your conference time you will receive a confirmation email from **PTCfast** confirming your appointment. (You may need to check your spam folder depending on your email settings.)

Note: We encourage all parents to schedule Fall conferences with their child's teacher(s) on these dates; however, you are welcome to reach out to your child's teacher(s) any time during the year to arrange alternate or additional conferencing opportunities.

Upcoming Events

11/3 - No School K-12
11/6 - Report Cards available to view in PowerParent
11/9 - NJHS Mtg 2:30
11/10 - Parent Teacher Conferences 4PM-7PM
11/12 - Parent Teacher Conferences 3PM-6PM
11/13 - Half Day AM K-12 (MS Dismissal @ 10:51AM)
11/16 - Student Council Mtg 2:30
11/19 - CREEK Club Luncheon (October Nominees)
11/25 - No School K-12
11/26 - No School K-12 Happy Thanksgiving
11/27 - No School K-12

CLICK HERE TO SEE: 2026-27 DISTRICT CALENDAR. This calendar is helpful for parents as you plan ahead for days off school, ½ days, and so forth for the school year.

VOLUNTEER REMINDER: A **Volunteer/ ICHAT form** is encouraged to be submitted yearly for those parents wishing to volunteer for certain events. The school keeps these forms on file in anticipation of those opportunities. A background check **is required to be completed 5-7 days prior to EACH event**. **(By having the form on file, it speeds up the process when background checks need to be run.)** Here is a link to the Middle School **Volunteer form**, which can also be found under the Parent Information tab of the Middle School webpage.

Spencer Speaks



Hello, Dragon Families!

November is almost here, and it is hard to believe how quickly this school year is moving! We are settling into our routines, building relationships, and seeing our students grow both academically and personally. One of my favorite things about middle school is watching students discover what they are capable of doing, sometimes even surprising themselves

along the way. As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to thank our families for the support, encouragement, and trust you show our staff every day. We have a great school community here at SCMS, and I am proud to be part of it. Let's keep working hard, looking out for one another, and making November a great month.

Looking ahead: November brings several opportunities to celebrate learning, service, and community. **National STEM/STEAM Day is November 8**, recognizing the importance of science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. These subjects encourage curiosity, creativity, problem-solving, and innovation. **Veterans Day is November 11**, when we honor the men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces. We encourage families to take a moment to recognize veterans in their lives and talk with students about service and sacrifice. **World Kindness Day is November 13**, reminding us that simple acts of kindness, empathy, and understanding can make a real difference. **America Recycles Day is November 15**, offering an opportunity to discuss environmental responsibility and the small choices we can make to care for our planet.

Finally, **Thanksgiving is Thursday, November 26**. As we prepare for the holiday, I hope our Dragon Families find time to relax, reconnect, and reflect on the things that matter most



Spencer's S/O: Huge shoutout to **Mrs. Sheeran, Mrs. Makin, Mrs. Brownfield, Mrs. Katsef, Mrs. Locklear, and Mrs. Anderson** for joining me at our **District MTSS meeting** last week! MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) is all about making sure we have the right academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports in place to help every student succeed. I appreciate the time to collaborate, share ideas, and look closely at how we can continue improving the support we provide. This kind of teamwork and commitment to student success is one of the things that makes SCMS such a great place to work and learn. Thank you!

CREEK and Expectations

Our CREEK focus for November is **Growth Mindset**. One of the most important lessons we can teach middle school students is that their abilities are not fixed. We can improve through effort, practice, good strategies, feedback, and a willingness to learn from mistakes. It's about being willing to work at things, accept help, and keep improving. Those are lessons that apply far beyond school.

Committed: Keep trying, especially when something is difficult. Success often requires practice, patience, and the willingness to try a different approach when the first one doesn't work.

Respectful: Be open to feedback and coaching. Teachers, coaches, and other adults offer corrections because they want to help students improve. Learning to listen, reflect, and make adjustments is an important life skill.

Everyone Is Responsible: Take ownership of your learning. Instead of saying, "I'm just bad at math," try asking, "What can I do differently to understand this?" Asking questions, seeking help, and following through are all part of growing.

Everyone Is Safe: Create an environment where people feel comfortable trying new things and making mistakes. Nobody should be embarrassed or ridiculed for asking a question, getting an answer wrong, or needing extra help.

Kind: Encourage others and celebrate their progress. Everyone learns at a different pace, and a little encouragement can make a big difference for someone who is struggling.

One of my favorite growth mindset ideas is the **power of "yet."** There is a big difference between saying "I can't do this" and "I can't do this *yet*." That one small word reminds students that improvement is possible. As we head toward Thanksgiving, let's celebrate progress, recognize effort, and encourage our Dragons to keep growing.

I am HERE TO HELP. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my secretary, Lisa Mokofsky (810-591-1707).

"It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed."

- Theodore Roosevelt

Athletics

WINTER I Season begins this week with Volleyball and Wrestling.GOOD LUCK Winter Athletes.

- **ELIGIBILITY**: To participate, athletes must be passing all classes, have a 2.0 GPA, and must have received no C.R.E.E.K. scores of 1.
- **QUESTIONS**: Please direct questions to the Athletic Office at 810-591-1808

GO DRAGONS!

Joe Spencer
Asst. Principal SCMS

Counselors' Corner




The holidays are quickly approaching, and the needs of our community are greater than ever! The **SCMS Giving Tree** program has been a holiday tradition for many years. As a school and community, we come together to help our fellow SCMS families who are in need. Last year we provided gifts to about 90 children, thanks to the generosity of our community, staff, and students! We have been very fortunate with incredible community support and would love to offer help to those in need this year!

NEED HOLIDAY HELP?

If you have a student at Swartz Creek Middle School and need help over the holidays with gifts or food, please complete the form below by
Monday, November 23rd.

HOLIDAY HELP FORM

Mrs. Sheeran (last names A-K) jsheeran@swcrk.org Mrs. Shreve (last names L-Z) ashreve@swcrk.org

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Policy Points

We want all of our students to have a successful start to the school year. Please set your child up for success this year by going over the following school rules:

- PHYSICAL FIGHTS can result in police citations and lengthy suspensions, including possible expulsion.
- VAPING AND ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES are a huge issue for schools today. At SCMS, you will receive a police citation and lengthy suspension, including possible expulsion.
- INAPPROPRIATE OR MEAN ONLINE ACTIVITY can have school consequences and legal consequences. Parents, please do phone checks to see what your child is up to!

- SCHOOL DRESS CODE: Shirts must have sleeves/strap; shorts/skirts must come to one thumb's length below the inseam. No bare midriffs! No hoods!
- CELL PHONES: No cell bell to bell! Cell phones must be off and in your locker or in a pencil pouch that's in a binder. First offense results in a 5-day daily phone lock-up in the office. (More details below).
- BACKPACKS, PURSES & WEARABLE BAGS are not allowed throughout the school day and must remain in student lockers. A pencil pouch to keep school supplies is acceptable.

We aim to maintain a safe and productive learning environment for our kids. Thank you for your support! It takes a village.

Cell Phones

In support of our new state law and the SCMS handbook, cell phones are **NOT** allowed during the school day at any time. All phones must be put away by 7:25. **They must be turned off and stored in your locker or pencil pouch if brought to school.** If you need to get a message to your child during the day, call one of our Student Services secretaries at (810) 591-1709 or 1707. If a student breaks this rule, there are immediate consequences: a one-week cell phone suspension where it is handed in to the office daily. Progressive discipline will follow if the rule is broken more than once. Talk to your children about this rule and help us keep your children focused on learning.

PowerSchool Set Up

- 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 at schaney@swcrk.org, and she will reach out to you. Additionally, contact Mrs. Chaney if you have moved and need to update your address.

Transportation

If your child will be riding a school bus this school year or will be attending AM and/or PM Latchkey, please take a few minutes to carefully review the link with transportation instructions and complete the required Transportation Change Request form in your PowerSchool/PowerParent account (only if there are changes).

Please note the following important reminders:

- You must answer "YES" to the question asking if your student needs transportation. If you do not select YES, your child will not be assigned to a bus.
- Complete the form carefully, selecting the appropriate transportation option (AM, PM, or both) and the correct pick-up/drop-off location.
- Transportation requests may take up to 5 business days to process and assign.

The 2026-2027 Transportation Instructions link also includes:

- StopFinder setup instructions for families using the district's bus tracking app.
- Latchkey transportation instructions for students attending AM and/or PM Latchkey.

2026-2027 Transportation Instructions

Thank you for completing these steps as soon as possible to help ensure your child's transportation is in place before the start of the school year.

If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate staff listed in the instructions.

Medication

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

Here is the link to the INFORMATIONAL FLYER and the SCHOOL NURSE HEALTH PAGE

Food Service

The Meal Magic Family Portal is a fantastic resource for families. Here, you can set up accounts for your children to deposit money, view purchases, transfer funds between children, and set restrictions. Both the Middle and High School offer à la carte items for all students; whether they bring a lunch or eat a free meal, they can purchase additional items.

Menus are available on the food service page under the NutriSlice tab and detail nutritional value, calories, macros, and allergens. If your student has special dietary needs, please contact our food service department directly. This will ensure that their meals are modified and documented accordingly for state compliance, and the school will be notified of any dietary restrictions.

Visit our website: swartzcreek.org and click “Food Service” for more information. Or contact Food Services directly at 810-591-1864

Yearbook

📘 **2027 Yearbooks Are on Sale!** It’s time to order your **2027 Yearbook!** 🎉 Yearbooks are currently available at the **lowest price of the year—just $40!** When you order now, you’ll also receive **four free icons with personalization.**

Don’t miss out on this special early-bird price! 👉 **Order your 2027 Yearbook Here**

💙 **Celebrate Your 8th Grader!** Do you have an **8th grader**? Celebrate this special milestone with a **Proud Parent Recognition Ad** for just **$30**! These personalized ads are a wonderful way to recognize your student’s accomplishments, celebrate their journey through middle school, and let them know just how proud you are. **Ad spaces are limited and tend to sell out quickly, so don’t wait!** 👉 **Purchase Your Proud Parent Recognition Ad Here.**

Give your 8th grader a special message they’ll be able to look back on for years to come!

Order your yearbook and recognition ad today!

PTO News

The Middle School PTO hosts lots of fun things throughout the school year for the kids! From fun nights and dances to monthly treats, we are here to bring joy to the kids and teachers. Please come out and consider how you could help this year. Our next meeting is Thursday 11/5/26, 4:30 in the middle school library. Additional PTO Information can be found on the middle school webpage under the *School Information* tab.

Parent Volunteers For Projects Are Always Needed. If interested, please contact our SCMS PTO via our email address at: **swcrkms.pto@gmail.com,** through the Facebook site **www.facebook.com/SCMSPTO,** or drop off messages in our mail box in the middle school office.

After School Clubs

This fall, our after-school group menu will be posted on our website. Click Menu and scroll down to the **Clubs** section, and you will find individual clubs listed. Parents are asked to make arrangements to collect children immediately after clubs break up at 4:45 PM each day to keep all children safe.

Annual Directory Information Notice (FERPA)

The ***Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*** (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that our District, with certain exceptions, obtain your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education records. However, Swartz Creek Community Schools may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised our District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the Swartz Creek Community Schools to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications such as a school yearbook, honor roll lists, and special event programs (*please access the **Directory Information Opt-Out** webpage for more examples*).

Directory information, which is information that is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. If you do not want Swartz Creek Community Schools to disclose any or all of the types of information designated as directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, please notify the principal of your child's building by completing and submitting the designated **opt-out form** available from our District website.

If you have further questions, please contact our Central Office Human Resource Director, John Mertz @ jmertz@swcrk.org or (810-591-2384). Thank you.

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.

Mrs. LeGrow, LEAD/ Principals Secretary dlegrow@swcrk.org (810)591-1785
Mrs. Anderson, Principal tanderson@swcrk.org (810)591-1708

Joe Spencer, Assistant Principal/MS Athletics jspencer@swcrk.org (810)591-1706
Mrs. Mokofsky, Assistant Principal/Secretary lmokofsky@swcrk.org (810)591-1707
Mrs. Chaney, Counseling Secretary schaney@swcrk.org (810)591-1709
Mrs. Sheeran, Counselor (Last Names A-K) jsheeran@swcrk.org (810)591-1713
Mrs. Shreve, Counselor (Last Names L-Z) ashreve@swcrk.org (810)591-1714
Mr. Miehm, Transportation Secretary, jmiehm@swcrk.org, 810-591-2113
Administration Building 810-591-2300
Mr. Delgado, Food Services, adelgado@swcrk.org, 810-591-1858

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Click on the icons below to check us out on the web
or social media platform of your choice:

