

SAVE!
Important
Registration
information!



Sycamore Middle School July, 2005

A Letter from the Principal

By the time you receive this, it will be mid-summer, and you're either having the time of your life with your children, or you're waiting for school to start with great anticipation! Many things have been happening since the students left! The building is being cleaned from top to bottom, desks, lockers, walls, floors, carpet and tile, painting and maintenance. Some teachers have left and new teachers have been hired, and some teachers have changed positions within the building (see article in this newsletter.) Summer School and Teen Reach have been here this summer, too! We are getting ready!

Locally, no doubt you have been reading about **growth** in our community, and there is a lot to get ready to prepare for it. We are lucky to have a forward-thinking Board of Education that consistently plans proactively. **Growth** can be viewed in many ways! This year, SMS staff and students hope to experience positive **growth** as we pursue goals for continual improvement. There can be no **growth** without goals. Our goals this year will include focus on continual improved achievement, building climate and safety for all students, and curriculum alignment. Continued planning for **growth**, we will be working with the CAC and the Board of Education as facility planning continues. While we are proud of solid achievement nationally, state-wide, and locally, we will continue to focus on achievement toward **growth** in performance in all areas. At the same time, middle school can be a very difficult time for many students. This is a time of immense academic, emotional, physical, and social **growth**, which can be both exciting and challenging! As an entire staff, we are committed to having every child feel safe to learn, free from bullying, teasing, or other problems that could make someone feel uncomfortable. We continue to review our discipline procedures, our Point System and PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports,) and our building-wide expectations of Respect, Responsibility, and Relationships. What is PBIS? It is a proactive, systems approach to preventing and responding to classroom and school discipline problems. Emphasis is directed toward developing and maintaining safe learning environments where teachers can teach and students can learn. Finally, as the middle child (as we refer to ourselves within the school system), another school-wide goal will be curriculum review and alignment between elementary and high school. We hope our goals will help us **grow** in improve in many ways!

Education of your child is a partnership between parents and school. To that end, parents are a vital component in any school, and I strongly believe that open communication between home and school is essential. When parents and educators work together, students' success is achieved. Also, if you have a concern, please go to the source, dial directly. Pick up the phone and call the teacher or email him/her. If it is a more global concern, feel free to call Mr. Cleven or me. It's only when someone is aware of a concern that it can be addressed! Of course, we would always welcome your compliments and affirmations of what's going well, too!

We look forward to an exciting year where we **grow** stronger in our practice and strive to meet our stakeholders' needs, students, parents, and community! Please help us in our quest to **grow** and improve! We are eager to welcome the students back in August! As always, feel free to stop by or call if you have any questions. Summer hours are: M-Th, 8:00-3:30, (12:00-12:45 lunch) and 8:00-Noon on Fridays.

Teams for 2005-2006

Listed below are the teams and Allied Arts rotations this school year. Team assignments have already been made, and those will be mailed with your registration packet that will be mailed July 22nd. A great deal of time and effort has been put into placing students on teams to achieve a balance in terms of gender, ability levels, programming, and many other factors, and, in the case of 6th grade students, previous school attended. At this stage we will not be able to make any team changes because such changes impact the placement of other students as well. We hope that you will understand this and will not seek a change we cannot grant.

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade will primarily consist of two person teams.

ENDEAVOR	SPIRIT	CONNECT	APOLLONIAN YEASAYERS
Mrs. Hooper-Math/Sci Mr. Franks- LA/SS	Mr. Kohler- Math/Sci Ms. Stracner -LA/SS	Ms. Perkins- Math/Sci Mrs. Holcomb- LA/Lit Ms. Hammack-SS, Sci, Lit.	Ms. Bolda- Math/Sci Mrs. Dryden- LA/SS Mrs. Van-Learning Facilitator

At 6th Grade, most teachers will teach one literature class, also. The exception is team Connect.

Seventh Grade

Seventh Grade teams will be four or five person teams.

INTREPID	SPARTAN 7
Ms. Wilkinson-Math Mrs. Zipse-Science Mrs. Stambaugh-Social Studies Mr. Ramsey-Language Arts	Mrs. Jordan-Math Mrs. Holly-Science Mr. Larsen- Social Studies/Language Arts Mr. Meyer- Social Studies/Language Arts Ms. Munch-Learning Facilitator

Eighth Grade

Eighth grade will be one large team. This will help prepare students to work with more teachers, yet it will still maintain the middle school teaming philosophy. While students will have up to five teachers within the team, there will not be two separate teams within eighth grade. Each week, team planning will be done for team activities and integrated learning, around students' needs, and also within departments. Literature will be taught by the Language Arts teachers. Two additional teachers will assist special education students across the team.

GR-8			
Math	Science	Social Studies	Language Arts
Mr. Andersen Mrs. White	Mrs. Kovac Mrs. Bowden	Mrs. Stoddard Mr. Mannebach	Mrs. Tekiela Ms. Andrzejewski Mr. Brens Ms. Poquette
Mr. Reid and Ms. Johnson-Learning Facilitators			

Allied Arts Rotations for Sycamore Middle School

In 6th grade, each student will have four different quarters of Allied Arts. At 7th and 8th grade, there are electives from which to choose. In May this year, students were asked to rank their preferences in the AA rotations, and these were used in schedule planning as much as possible.

Sixth Grade (Qtr. length)	Seventh Grade (Qtr. length)	Eighth Grade (Semester length)
Music Art Family Consumer Science Industrial Tech	Music Art Family Consumer Science Industrial Tech Photography Technology	Health (required) Art Family Consumer Science Industrial Tech Technology

Watch the Mail! Team assignments and registration packets will be mailed July 22nd. Please watch for this important mailing! Below is important information regarding registration and fees. Please use this when budgeting and planning for the next school year!

Mail-In Registration

- ◆ Please make any corrections to the enclosed pre-printed Registration Information Form. In particular, please update address & phone number changes, and medical & emergency information, including new emergency names and numbers. Fill in any empty blanks. **The form must be signed by a parent or guardian.**
- ◆ Check the appropriate fees below. (This year a single check can be written to cover all fees per family per school! We hope this simplifies registration for you!)
- ◆ Fill out Student Health Information form.
- ◆ Fill out Yearbook Form (to purchase).
- ◆ Fill out Local Field Trip permission form.
- ◆ Fill out Parent in Touch/Parent Directory and PTO Volunteer Form (optional)
- ◆ **6th grade or students new to district only-** Read the enclosed Technology Acceptable Use Policy with your child and sign the attached Parent/Guardian and User Permission Form

Walk-In Registration

Tuesday, August 11th from 1pm to 7pm

- ◆ **Bring the enclosed pre-printed copy of the Student Registration Information Form with corrections or changes made on the form.** In particular, please update address & phone number changes, and medical & emergency information, including new emergency names and numbers. **The form must be signed by a parent or guardian.**
- ◆ Make checks out to CUSD #427 for all fees to be paid for SMS students in your family. Use the worksheet below to calculate the amounts.
- ◆ Fill out Student Health Information form.
- ◆ **6th grade or students new to district only -** Read the enclosed Technology Acceptable Use Policy and sign the enclosed Parent/Guardian and User Permission Form
- ◆ Fill out Yearbook Form (to purchase).
- ◆ Fill out Local Field Trip permission form.
- ◆ Fill out Parent In Touch/Parent Directory Form and PTO Volunteer Form (optional)

Worksheet for Parents to determine Fees due

Quantity	Description	Fee	Total Cost
	Instructional Fees	\$100 per student	
	Interscholastic Sports	\$50 per sport per student	
	Intramural Sports	\$20 per sport per student	
	Yearbook	\$16 per student	
	(One check payable to CUSD #427)	Total	

RevTrak (Paying Fees with a Credit Card)

Simplify your registration process by using your Visa or Master Card. Sign on to the district website www.syc427.org and click on the link to the Web Store or go directly to <http://sycamore.revtrak.net>. Click on the appropriate school, make your selections, enter the Student ID number and proceed to checkout. Be sure to print a receipt for your records. Indicate the order number on the Student Registration Fee Form and return the form to the school. If you do not have access to the internet, simply enter your credit card type, number, expiration date and signature on the Student Registration Fee Form and mail the form to the school. A receipt will be mailed to you. Credit card payments will also be accepted at the schools during on-site registration.

Visa and Master Card will also be accepted for the purchase of lunches for Middle School students. It takes

72 hours for your child's lunch account to reflect purchases made through RevTrak online.

S.O.S.

(Save our Subscriptions)

September 22nd, the Middle School will be conducting a magazine subscription fundraiser to raise money for programs and activities that benefit our students. Some of the uses for the money raised are listed below. For the last four years this fundraiser has been a huge success and we hope to do as well this year; however, the success of this program will depend upon your participation. Since we only offer two major fundraisers at the middle school, we need your support.

What is the money used for?

Field Trips	SMS Musical	Choirs	Band
Orchestra	Jazz Band	Student Newspaper	All School Positive Point Activities
Industrial Tech	Technology	Art class	Family Consumer Science
Photography class	PE	Health	Art Club
Best Buddies club	Builders' Club	Bully Busters	Student Council
Garden Club	Multicultural Club	Weightlifting Club	8 th Grade party

How can you help?

If you have subscriptions that need to be renewed (perhaps from last year's drive or just your own coming due), or you would like to order a subscription to a new magazine, please SAVE your orders for our fundraiser. Since you are planning on buying the subscription anyway, you might as well redirect the money through the school which will receive 40% of every dollar spent. Plan on giving magazine subscriptions as gifts this year. Let your friends and relatives know about the fundraiser and ask them to save their subscriptions for our program as well. Even people living out of state can help.

Renewal orders will simply extend your current subscriptions, regardless of their expiration dates. In some cases we will even accept renewal coupons for less than the quoted prices in our catalog!

Remember, the money that you would spend anyway will **stay in our community** and support field trips and other programs at Sycamore Middle School. The high school begins their subscription drive in early September, so save some subscriptions for your middle school child. Remember we only do two major fundraisers, so we need your support.

School Supplies

Supply requirements differ somewhat for each team. Supply lists have been faxed to the following stores: **Ben Franklin, WalMart, Target**. Supply lists are also available by visiting the district web site at **www.syc427.org**. All 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are required to have a P.E. uniform (available at Ben Franklin in Sycamore or Chilton Sporting Goods and Sports of All Sorts in DeKalb). A student assignment notebook is furnished by the school and will be used in all classes.

New 7th & 8th Grade Students

Please join our student council representatives, Ms. Kaminky-Brown, and Mrs. Pickens (school counselors), for an ice cream social in the school cafeteria on Tuesday, August 23, from 1-1:30 p.m. We will eat ice cream, have a tour of the building, and take the time to answer any questions you may have about Sycamore Middle School. Welcome to our building! We are looking forward to meeting you!

SMS Newsletters

This newsletter contains a few notes about the upcoming school year. Future newsletters will be mailed home for the months of October, January, and March. They will be hand carried by your child in September, November, February, and April. There will be no newsletter in December. If you do not receive a newsletter, please contact us or remind your child to bring it home. We are happy to send newsletters to non-custodial parents, too. Just let us know!

Student Insurance

Sycamore CUSD #427 is participating in a Student Accident Insurance program that covers your child for injuries incurred while participating in school sponsored and supervised activities, including all sports. This program pays benefits with no deductible.

Because accidents also occur away from school, Sycamore School District has approved the following optional plans that you may purchase separately:

24 Hour Coverage

Around the clock accident coverage for your child anywhere in the world; protection during vacation, weekends, and school days, as well as all travel.

24 Hour Unlimited Dental Accident Coverage

Brochures, claim forms, and applications for these plans are available in the middle school office or by contacting Barb Carrier at the Business Office.

These plans provide secondary coverage and will pay benefits after your primary health insurance has concluded participation in the claim.

6th Grade Open House

An open house will be held for sixth grade students and their parents on **Tuesday, August 23rd, from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m.** Parents and students will have an opportunity to meet their team teachers and see their classrooms. We hope that you will be able to attend this informative evening and give us the opportunity to meet and welcome you to the middle school.

7th/8th Grade Open House

The 7th and 8th grade open house will be held on **Thursday, September 15th from 7:00 to 8:20 p.m.** There will be a new format this year. The evening will begin with a general session for all 7th and 8th grade parents followed three 20 minutes sessions in which to meet the team, visit all Allied Arts classes your child will take this year, and to see all the classrooms. We hope that you will like this format. More information about the open house will be sent home in early September.

New Faces at the Middle School

Ms. Brady-Technology Instructor
Mr. DeLacy-ED/BD Resource teacher
Ms. Lestina-Orchestra
Ms. Hammack-6th Grade Social Studies, Science,
Lit.
Mrs. Peska-Counselor
Mr. Picolotti-PE
Mrs. Nelson-PE, Health, APE

Changes in Current SMS Staff

Ms. Stracner-6th Grade SS/LA
Mr. Meyer-Spartan 7, SS/LA
Mr. Ramsey-7th Grade LA
Ms. Poquette-8th Grade
LA/Lit.
Mr. Smith-Indust. Tech-returns!
Ms. Tamraz got married! She
is Mrs. Bolda now!

Athletics

Students going out for any sport, except intramurals, **must have a physical before they can begin practice or try-outs.** Before the first game, an athletic fee and emergency contact form must be turned in. Refer to the Athletic Handbook for other FAQ's. An athletic fee of \$50 is also required and must be paid before an athlete receives a uniform or equipment.

An outline of athletic offerings for each grade level with some general information follows. Interscholastic sports have informational meetings for students to attend to get specific information approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the start of the season.

Volleyball

Try-outs for the both 7th and 8th grade teams will begin on Monday, August 15th. These will be "two-a-days" where athletes practice from 10-Noon, eat lunch in the Commons, then practice 1-3 pm.

7th and 8th Grade Football

There will be an informational meeting for parents and athletes on Saturday, July 30th at 9:00 am in the main gym at the middle school. Equipment check out is Monday, August 22nd. Time will be announced at the parent meeting. Practices begin Tuesday, August 23rd at 3:15 p.m.

Intramurals*

Fall

Flag Football (boys') - afternoons until approximately 4:30 p.m.

Volleyball (girls') - mornings from 7-8 a.m

Winter

Basketball (boys') - mornings from 7-8 a.m.

Basketball (girls') - mornings from 7-8 a.m.

Spring

Track (boys' & girls') - afternoons until approximately 4:15 p.m.

Intramurals are held on M, T, Th, F for a 3-week period. Fee is \$20.00 per activity.

7th/8th Interscholastic Athletics

Fall

- ◇ Football (boys') - late August – October
- ◇ Volleyball (girls') - late August – October (cut to 24 players for each grade level)

Winter

- ◇ Basketball (boys') – late October-January (cut to 24 players for each grade level)
- ◇ Wrestling (boys') – late November-mid February
- ◇ Basketball (girls') – mid January-March (cut to 24 players for each grade level)

Spring

- ◇ Track (boys' & girls') – late March-mid May (Try to keep as many participants as possible. However, participants may have to qualify for meets (if number's warrant).

**** Practices are held M-F and some Saturdays.**

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday, July 21 st	PTO Meeting, 10:00 am
Friday, July 22 nd	Team Assignments and Registration Packets mailed home
Friday, Aug. 8 th	Mail-in Registration Due
Tuesday, Aug. 11 th	Walk In Registration 1:00 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Aug. 23 rd	7 th /8 th Grade New Student Ice Cream Social 1:00-1:30
Tuesday, Aug. 23 rd	6 th Grade Open House/Orientation 6:30 pm.
Thursday, Aug. 25 th	First Day of Classes - 8:20 - 11:30 a.m.
Friday, Aug. 26 th	First Full Day of School
Friday, Sept. 2 nd	Picture day
Monday, Sept. 5 th	No School - Labor Day
Monday, Sept. 12 th	PTO Meeting - 7 p.m. - Library
Thursday, Sept. 15 th	7 th /8 th Grade Open House - 7-8:20 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 16 th	No School - Institute day
Thursday, Sept. 22 nd	All-School Fundraiser Kickoff
Thursday, Sept. 22 nd	Connected Math Parent Night-7 pm in LRC
Friday, Sept. 23 rd	Top Ten turn in day for Fundraiser
Friday, Sept. 30 th	Mid-terms mailed, Newsletters handed out
Thursday, Oct. 6 th	Magazine orders due-Final turn in day

Other Ways you can Help Sycamore Middle School

We are all feeling the crunch of today's economy and our middle school is no different. There are some ways to help the middle school budget while shopping for items you already may use.

1. The **Campbell's for Education** project. Collect the soup labels and other Campbell's products. Visit www.labelsforeducation.com for a complete list of items that count toward this project.
2. General Mills has a program called **Box Tops for Education**. For more information log on to www.boxtops4education.com and get the list of items that count toward cash for our school.
3. **Swiss Valley Milk** offers our school 5 cents for each milk top. Those of you with high school age children can rack up a huge supply during the summer!
4. Save your **desktop printer cartridges** and send them to school in a Ziploc. The school earns money for recycling them.
5. **Target** offers a 1% cash back to the school of your choice if you use your Target credit card. Don't like the idea of a credit card? You can still help by using the card and walking over to the customer service desk and paying it off right away. You will receive a no balance notice instead of a bill and help your middle school at the same time. If you already have a card and the money is going to a school your children no longer attend, it is simple to change the affiliation. Again, go to the service desk and ask that Sycamore Middle School be designated

SPARTAN REACH

Sign Up Now!

Homework Help! Friends! Activities!

Spartan REACH (replacing Teen REACH) will start in the Fall. It will meet every day after school. It will be your chance to be with friends, get help with your homework, and enjoy activities.

Sign Up Now and Guarantee your Spot for the Fall!

- You must be a Sycamore Middle School student
- Spartan REACH will meet every day after school and requires students to attend at least three days per week
- Students may attend: A) 3 to 4:30, B) 3 to 5:00, or C) 3 to 6 (Transportation home is only available at 5 PM)

If you have questions or want to sign up, call Tony Stahl, 899-8123 or email him at tstahl@syc427.org.

Sign Up Now and Guarantee Your Child a Spot in the Fall!

Builder's Club at SMS...

Builder's club was established at Sycamore Middle School 2 years ago. As a part of the Kiwanis Family, Builder's Club is an excellent way for students to serve the school and community while having fun, forming friendships, and acquiring leadership skills that will last a lifetime. Not only is it a great preparatory for Key Club in high school, it provides community service opportunities that are necessary for a well-rounded individual. Look for more information as the school year approaches. We hope to see many students involved! Contact Mrs. Tekiela for more information.

Dear Parents and Students:

This letter supplements the District's 2004 – 2005 Student-Parent Handbook regarding the release of designated student directory information to third parties. Directory information is information in a student's school record which may be released to the general public without prior written consent of the parent or students age 18 and older *unless* the parent or student requests that the school district not release such information.

As indicated in the Handbook, the District has designated the following information as directory information:

Student's Name
Student's Address
Student's gender
Student's grade level
Student's telephone listing
Student's date and place of birth
Participation in officially recognized activities, organizations and sports
Weight and height of student athletic team members
Dates of Attendance
Degrees and Awards Received
Photographs of students
Name of most recent previous educational agency or institution attended

State and federal law require school districts to release names, addresses, and telephone numbers unless parents or students have advised the District that they do not want the District to disclose such information without their prior written consent.

If you do not want the District to release some or all of the above-designated directory information, you must notify the District in writing by **September 2nd, 2005**. The notification should be forwarded to Jane Dargatz and should specify the student's name and identification number, and list the types of information that should not be released.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jane Dargatz, Principal

Yearbook

Each year the Sycamore Middle School Yearbook staff works hard putting together a yearbook that reflects events of the school year. The cost of the yearbook is \$16. The Yearbook sales staff will be taking orders and money for the yearbook during registration, Open House, and in the Commons during the school year. Please complete the Yearbook Order Form and attach (or enclose, if using mail-in registration) a check for \$16 for each yearbook made payable to CUSD#427. (Yearbook cost may also be included in total amount of school fees paid with registration for your convenience.)

YEARBOOK ORDER FORM

_____	_____	_____
Student Name	Grade	Number of Yearbooks
_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Name	Date	
_____	_____	
Parent/Guardian Signature	Home Phone	

Photographs and Video Tapes of Students

During the course of the year, students at the middle school are photographed or videotaped as they go about their normal school activities. These pictures may be candid for the yearbook or pictures or videos of class activities that are shared with the class or other classes, or they may be pictures taken by the press. If for some reason you do not wish to have your child photographed or videotaped, please fill out the form to the right and return it to us by Friday, September 2nd.

Please do not include my child in any photographs or videotapes taken at the school with the exception of the required student identification card.

Student
Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature:
