



# TOPPER TIMES

SOMERSWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

## A message from Admin

I'm pleased that our students have made a such smooth transition into the school year. Our teachers have established their classroom routines and the school is buzzing with great energy and laughter.

Throughout the school year we will reach out to you via our School FaceBook Page, newsletters, "All Calls", email blasts, and posting on our website in order to keep you informed about what's going on here at SMS. If at any time, you have questions, concerns, or compliments, please feel free to call the main office at 692-2126. It's a pleasure working with your children and I'm incredibly proud of our school community.

As October comes to an end and the days start to get shorter and the weather gets a bit cooler, I hope that we can stay on this trajectory of positive energy. We hope our commitment to creating memorable moments for our students will be obvious to you when they walk through your door each afternoon. We're thankful for the opportunity to work with your children, and just like you, we want them to be happy, healthy, and successful!

We're happy to announce our snack shack is now open to all SMS students during lunch periods. Each day after the main lunch meal is served, we open our snack shack for students to purchase snacks. Snack shack options include chips, home baked cookies, rice crispie treats, fruit snacks, and Switch canned drinks, etc. We message families when your student's lunch account balance exceeds \$15. If you're in need of free and reduced lunch paperwork packets are available in our main office and can be found on our website as well.

Each year students and staff are presented with a Principal's Challenge. This year our Principal's Challenge is "Everybody". We've challenged 'everybody', staff and students, to make 'everybody' feel welcomed, heard, supported and for this to be a great year for everybody.

- Everybody:
  - Deserves to feel valued, safe, accepted, supported;
  - Has different strengths, needs, opinions, feelings, concerns;
  - Has the ability to make a positive impact on others;
  - Can grow, improve, and make our school better;

- Has their own story and experiences

We're continuing to provide and promote student opportunities to encourage students to get involved; we're seeing a vast improvement with student engagement in school opportunities. Some of the opportunities include: ESports, Jazz Band, Athletics, Youth 2 Youth, Biocoding, Ski Club, SYC, Yearbook, Spelling Bee, Drama, etc. We recently revealed that this year's drama performance will be a musical, Shrek Jr.

The first round of NWEA testing has been completed and will serve as a baseline. NWEA testing provides staff with individualized information that allows them to meet their students where they're at. Results will be available at Parent Teacher Conferences (November 16 and November 20). Any parents who aren't able to attend conferences will receive their student's NWEA results in the mail with COSLs at the end of Trimester 1. We will be taking NWEA assessments again in the winter to assess growth and monitor progress.

Thank you to everybody who made our first fundraiser such a success - the school profited over \$3,000 from this single fundraiser. All of that money will go back to supporting students with field trip costs, outstanding student field trips, and bringing in speakers and performers for SMS ensuring that SMS continues to be a great place to work, learn, and be.

We're looking forward to a great year.

#### A message from 8th Grade

October was a busy month for 8<sup>th</sup> graders! In Science, they worked on the laws of physics and concluded with building and launching rockets. In Social Studies, they studied early colonization and created their colony brochures. In Math, students conquered the Pythagorean Theorem unit, and in English Language Arts students have been reading, writing, and researching about the Salem Witch Trials. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will head to Salem, MA to visit the sites of the witch trials, and learn first hand from historians on an extended learning trip. As we are more than half way through our trimester, we want to make sure students have completed summative evidence as this is needed to keep them on track for high school.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the volleyball team played in a Dig Pink fundraiser game against some of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade boy fall athletes and raised almost \$300 for Breast Cancer Awareness. The Student Leaders have begun assisting the Somersworth Fire Department with their annual Toys for Tots project and our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Marching Band students put on a great show for the school this month. We also had many of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders join the new Esports team, and Yearbook club that started this month.

It's a busy but satisfying time of year, and we encourage all of our students to continue to work hard, and take advantage of opportunities.

## Substitutes needed!! Click the [link](#) to apply!

### September's Outstanding

#### Students of the Month

Everett Lunt

Annika Bourn

Layla Koumarianos

### September's Outstanding

#### Staff Member of the Month

Brian Bussiere

### October's Outstanding

#### Students of the Month

Mason Molway

Scarlett Chaston

Johnathan Ross

### October's Outstanding

#### Staff Member of the Month

Tracy Bemis

### Advisory

Advisory is off to a great start this school year! At SMS, advisory groups consist of 10-12 students from all grade levels, with one SMS staff member acting as group advisor. Throughout these first several weeks, students and advisors have been busy getting to know each other by participating in icebreaker and team-building activities. Groups have spent time reviewing advisory expectations in addition to discussing this year's Principal's challenge:

"Everybody." Recently, advisory groups were hard at work decorating pumpkins!

All pumpkins were entered into the annual SMS pumpkin contest, with recognition in a variety of categories. Pumpkins were also displayed at Somersworth's Pumpkin Festival downtown.

Happy Fall!



### Sports Snapshot

*Basketball Tryouts are coming up!!*

*November 20 & November 21:  
Boys 2:30-4 Girls 4-6 at the SMS Gym*

*Open Gym at High School 5-6 pm Sundays for those wanting to play basketball*



*Volleyball & Soccer have wrapped up! Thanks to Coach Bussiere and Coach Hanlon for a great season!!*



### **A Few Reminders...**

- ★ Please make sure students are not bringing toys, blankets, etc. to school
- ★ If you are looking to have an in-person meeting with an administrator or teacher, please call to schedule an appointment to ensure they will be available to meet with you
- ★ Be sure to check PowerSchool to stay up to date with your student's assignments and academic performance

**\*\*Tardy Policy Update\*\***

**Beginning November 1, students who are tardy 4 or more times in one month will serve a lunch detention. It is very important that students are on time to not miss class time. This means students should be in their homeroom seats at 7:30.**

<u>Important Dates</u>	
11/3	Fall Festival
11/7	No School - Teacher Workshop
11/10	No School - Veterans Day
11/14	8th Grade Field Trip to Salem MA
11/15	Cultural Fair
11/15	ETS Field Trip
11/16	Parent Teacher Conferences
11/20	Parent Teacher Conferences
11/22	No School - Teacher Workshop
11/23 & 11/24	No School - Thanksgiving Break