



TOPPER TIMES

SOMERSWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

A message from Essentials

Art -

6th Grade has just finished making their own paper dragon puppets! These are based on a public art project in Seattle. We're moving on to a color-mixing project with paint where they experiment with what different color combinations create! These will then get cut up to create a collage of each class's colors! 7th Grade is currently working on their tunnel books. They are taking a scene of their choice and developing a 3-dimensional image using only paper to create a new perspective. 8th grade just finished making plaster masks! They each were allowed to choose their own inspiration, ranging from famous characters to multi-cultural influences all the way to mythical creatures! Now they're researching song lyrics that they would like to illustrate through their own medium of art.

Gym -

In Physical Education, we just finished up our lacrosse unit. This was a lot of students' first introduction to the sport, and it was a blast showing them the ropes. Starting next week, we'll be finishing up our health unit with all grade levels. Once health is finished, we'll continue with our basketball unit, focusing on the individual skills of dribbling, passing, shooting, etc., and eventually moving towards being able to have miniature scrimmages!

Research Skills -

Both 6th and 7th grade started the trimester learning what a reliable source is and how to find them on the internet. 6th grade puts this into practice by doing a variety of research projects. 7th grade creates a plan for a vacation after being given a budget and expectations for a family of four. In addition to making the plans, they lay out what the environment will be like, animals they might see, and much more! 8th grade has started their genius hour, which are independent passion projects. They can learn about anything they would like, working towards developing a product of some sort. This trimester, I have a student making his own Zamboni for an ice rink and another student making their own version of Skittles candies.

Computers -

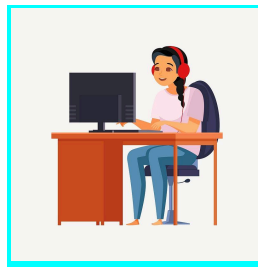
6th grade is being introduced to the Google Suite, learning how to edit documents independently, and starting work on their Digital Portfolio. We also recently did a basic introduction of TinkerCAD, learning the basics of how to create a 3d image and how to create something out of provided pieces. 7th Grade is working with digital photography and editing software like Pixlr, and worked on Multi-media presentations by making their own "Top 5 List", learning how to do video editing, add titles, transitions and more! 8th Grade has started learning about algorithms and flowcharts to the point that they are able to develop their own basic phone applications! One student created their own "Choose Your Own Adventure" type app. Currently, they are learning about the inner workings of computers, how to build computers, etc. and how to build their own Personal Computer!

FCS - With all three grade levels, we're starting our cooking units! 6th grade will be focusing on how to make healthy snacks, including English muffin pizzas, yogurt parfaits, and grilled cheese sandwiches while making sure we keep a safe and sanitary environment. 7th grade will be cooking breakfast items like pumpkin chocolate chip muffins, banana pancakes, and breakfast

sandwiches. When 6th and 7th grade are not doing their cooking, they're working on sewing projects. 8th grade is going to be creating full meals like macaroni and cheese, pizza, homemade chicken noodle soup, and more! Outside of cooking, 8th grade is working on college and career readiness, even taking a tour of the Career Technical Center next door at the high school.

Music -

In chorus, we're working towards our Music in Our Schools Month performances with a variety of music from genres, periods, and musicians! We'll be performing music by the Jackson Five, Taylor Swift, Green Day, and so much more! In 6th grade band, we've introduced new instruments like the tenor saxophone, tuba, and bass clarinet and have started working towards making music as a whole band instead of individuals. Listening to each other, developing confidence in our abilities, and playing music at a higher level of complexity. 7th and 8th grade band have continued working on the concept of musical independence within the ensemble. We have a ton of music we've got ready to perform as well as even more on the horizon! Great things are happening down in the Music Department!



We now offer a late bus to bring SMS students home. We expect the bus to pick students up from the school around 4:00. If you have additional questions regarding the late bus, please contact the bus company, First Student, at 603 - 692 - 4406.*

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

December Outstanding Students

Rebecca Senduk

Cameron Picard

Nevaeh Peralta

December Outstanding Staff Member

Stephanie Miller

January Outstanding Students

Riaan Patel

Tegan Levesque

Abigail Brown

January Outstanding Staff Member

Sarah Campbell

Advisory

In January, we had a great time preparing and participating in the Family Feud community day.

In upcoming Advisory events, we have 2024 Chariot Races. We are really excited to see what Advisory groups will come up for chariot designs! After Chariot Races, next will be the annual Advisory Olympics, which is always a fun event!



Sports Snapshot

Basketball

2/5/24 Varsity Boys v Wakefield

Varsity Girls v Wakefield

2/12/24 V Boys @ Portsmouth Christian Academy

Varsity Girls @ Portsmouth Christian Academy



Check out <https://somersworthmiddle.bigteams.com/> for any sports updates!

<u>Important Dates</u>	
2/15	Outstanding Staff & Student Field Trip
2/16	8th grade to UNH - SeaPerch
2/16	Valentine's Day Dance 6-7:30
2/23	Winter Carnival
2/26-3/1	Winter Break



SYC Afterschool

What is SYC? SYC is the after-school program at the middle school. We provide an hour of academic & homework time/support, two snack times, and fun enrichments including art, STEM, physical activity, gaming, and community service! Days that school is in-session until 5:30!

Current Enrichment Examples

Paint N Skate: Where students design and build their own skateboard, then get to take it home to keep!

Cooking Nutrition: Students learn valuable cooking and nutrition skills with new recipes each week!

Dover Bowl: Enhancing their bowling technique and playing the arcades, students love going to the alley!

E-Sports: Twice a week students have the opportunity to play video games *MarioKart and Rocket League* against middle schoolers across the country, as an SMS team!

Sign ups! There is still plenty of room to sign up for SYC. The cost is only \$40 a month for those who qualify for free or reduced lunch, and \$80 a month for those who don't! This is an average of \$3 a day! There are a few scholarships available as well. Please [click here](#) for more information and to sign up!

Cancellations With the snow coming, there may be times where after school activities are canceled due to inclement weather occurring throughout the day, even if school was in session. In these cases there will be no SYC. Please make a plan with your student regarding how they will get home. Communication will come from the school/SAU in these events.

There will be no SYC on Friday 2/23/24