

# Swope Middle School GT Magnet

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*Thank you for all  
your generous  
donations to the  
Annual Swope MS  
Food Drive!!!*

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As we enter the holiday season, we'd like to wish you and your family the best of holiday celebrations with much laughter, love and life. Go on many adventures, read some books, watch some movies, drink some hot chocolate and celebrate the good fortunes in your life. Please know that we consider ourselves lucky to have shared in your child's academic growth and look forward to more fun challenges in the New Year. The Swope GT Family wishes you joy and peace this holiday season.

This semester has just flown by! There are only about two weeks left and students should expect these few weeks to be super busy with holiday concerts and events, final projects, and final exams! It is very important that every student is fully rested and properly nourished each day they come to school.

Thank you to all our families for your enthusiastic participation in our recent Swope Election Convention! It was fun to celebrate the most basic of our American Rights, Privileges, and Responsibilities with both you and your children. Be sure to enjoy our many photos from the evening on our website: <http://swopegtmagnet.weebly.com>.

Thank you to all our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade families for your 100% return rate of commitment forms for next year! We are glad you will be with us next year!

We are in the midst of the Annual Swope Food Drive. Please send in your family's contributions to your child's enrichment class. Thank you so much for your generosity throughout this holiday season.

Please keep in mind that the week of December 12-15 is our Final Exam Week. District Math Finals will be given the morning of Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments or having your child miss classes this week. Thank you!

## Important Dates for Upcoming Events

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*December is short on school days, but each day matters. The semester ends on December 15<sup>th</sup>!*

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November 28-December 12	MAPS Testing
December 3, 1:30 p.m.	Swope Winter Orchestra and Choir Concert, Nightingale Hall, UNR
December 8	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parents—SOS Informational Session 6:00 p.m. Swope Library
December 9, 6:30 p.m.	Swope Winter Band Concert Swope Gym
December 12-15	Final Exams, vary by class Please check class websites for specifics
December 15	Last Day of Quarter/Semester
December 16-January 6	Winter Break!!!! NO School!!!!
January 9	Spring Semester Begins!

## High School Transition Information

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*GATE Institute  
Parent Forum  
December 13<sup>th</sup>*

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Thursday, December 1	Signature Academy Applications Window opens
Friday, December 2	9:30-1:30 p.m. AACT Tour—sign up in the SAC
Monday, December 5	5:30-7:00 p.m. AACT Parent Meeting at AACT
Tuesday, December 13	6:00 p.m. GATE Institute Parent Forum, Hug High Little Theater
Sunday, January 1	AACT Applications Due
Sunday, January 29	Signature Academy Applications Due
Friday, February 3	GATE Institute Applications Due
Thursday, March 15	7:30-2:00 p.m. RHS Frosh Day at Reno High School!!!

## Upcoming Field Trips

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*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field  
Trips*

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January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Youth Wildlife Conservation Experience 8:00-1:45 p.m. Lunch is included! ☺ Students will be learning about career options in wildlife as well as participate in archery and other activities. Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help chaperone! ☺
April 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup>	Bodega Bay Cost: \$150/student and \$100/parent chaperones More Details to follow Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help chaperone! ☺ *Please Note: If you want to chaperone on this overnight field trip, you must have your fingerprints submitted to WSCD no later than March 1 <sup>st</sup> , and no earlier than October 20 <sup>th</sup> .

March 15 <sup>th</sup>	RHS Frosh Day All 8 <sup>th</sup> graders registering to attend RHS in August 2017 7:30-2:00 p.m. Lunch is included
Spring Semester TBA	NV Energy More details to follow Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help chaperone! ☺
Spring Semester TBA	Discovery Museum More details to follow Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help chaperone! ☺

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*7<sup>th</sup> Grade Field  
Trips*

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## November Classroom Previews

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*Mr. Bodensteiner*

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### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The students will be analyzing the Enlightenment, the philosophers and the ideas they created. We'll also study the French and Indian War as it leads into the American Revolution. Some of the concepts to be studied are the causes that led to political radicalism in the U.S. We'll look at the Founding Fathers and their ideas as well.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

The students will examine the social currents of the Progressive era during the early 20th century, where they'll analyze the social problems, the solutions and leaders who fought to change the U.S. We'll also examine the economic systems of socialism and capitalism. This unit will prepare the students for what's to come after the election of Woodrow Wilson in 1912 and the looming World War in 1914. We'll primarily study WWI throughout the third quarter.

### Algebra

During the month of December our class will focus on the last part of Graphing linear inequalities and discuss statistics. [This will bring us to the District Final Exam that is tentatively scheduled on December 12th during the first half of the day.](#) The study guide for the final exam has been posted to Google Classroom and copies were passed out the week of November 28th.

### Algebra II Honors

Our class will be continuing Rational Functions through the remainder of the semester. [The District Final Exam is tentatively scheduled for December 12th during the first half of the day.](#) The study guide for the final exam has been posted to Google Classroom and copies were passed out the week of November 28th.

### Integrated II

The final unit of study for our class will be Coordinate Geometry which will take us right to the Final exam. [The final exam will tentatively be scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, and/or Wednesday the week of December 12th.](#) The study guide for the final exam has been posted to Google Classroom and copies were passed out the week of November 28<sup>th</sup>.

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*Mrs. Cabangon*

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*Mrs. Hoy*

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### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA:**

Our guiding question for the second quarter is “Why does adaptation play a role in resilience?” Students will use their study of Upton Sinclair’s The Jungle to answer this question. During December, students will have completed reading and discussing this book and will move on to the project phase of this study. Students will delve deep into various parts of novel analysis—character development, plot development, setting, themes, use of metaphors and symbols and quotes. Students will complete a group project that will help guide their independent project. Students will then take a final essay assessment covering this novel study the last week of the semester.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade GTC:**

Using Stephen King’s memoir On Writing as an anchor, students will explore and teach each other about what good writers do when crafting a written passage by creatively presenting his ideas and creating writer’s notebook activities that everyone will complete. At the completion of the student presentations, students will take their Winter MAPS tests. Students will write an essay using the skills developed through their study of the Stephen King book at the end of the semester.

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*Mrs. Leslie*

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### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA:**

For the month of December in reading, students will have finished the novel Chains and will be working collaboratively in small groups on a reading project related to the novel. This collaboration piece is very important for students as they learn to work together in a productive, efficient, and respectful way. Students have the opportunity to practice many of the lessons they are learning in the Second Step program from enrichment: active listening, disagreeing respectfully, considering others’ point of view, compromising on a task, and even negotiating towards a win-win solution. Students will create a presentation exhibiting their project on the week after Thanksgiving. From there, students will be taking the Reading MAP test, an opportunity to show growth in their reading skills.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade GTC:**

For the month of December in writing, students will work on a narrative writing piece. College-bound students need to be able to articulately and expressively write a personal narrative to be used for college entrance and college scholarship applications. It’s important they have had many experiences writing this type of essay long before they are expected to be writing “for real.” They will also be taking the Math MAP test, an opportunity to show growth in their math skills.

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*Mr. Pascual*

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December is rolling around and that means finals are rolling around. Exams can be stressful, so to alleviate some of this stress, make sure your child gets those breaks in and not to over-study. Remember that the finals are about 15% of the final grade, and there will be no re-tests or test corrections. Check our <http://mrpascual.com> if you want more information on any work.

### **Integrated I**

We will be finishing up our last chapter on Proportions. After this section, we will be buckling down and reviewing for our final. I will be giving out the final study

guide in late November to make sure we keep up on the information and we are not too stressed by finals.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

We will be finishing our large section on fractions. Luckily, this is a refresher to most students, so we really are working on mastery of fractions. The final study guide will be given out in the beginning of December, and we will be working together to touch on everything we learned through the semester.

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*Mr. Shader*

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### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**

We start our [Earth History unit on Monday, 11/28](#). The first investigation covers the “Story of Earth.” We’ll be looking at landforms, various sedimentary rocks, especially those found around the Grand Canyon. We’ll take a “tour” of some of the best National Parks for geology, and start to work on erosion, weathering, and deposition.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade English**

We’ll be finishing up our novel, [Watership Down](#), with a comprehensive test on the last third of the book on 12/1. We’ll continue our [Socratic Seminars until the book is finished and then start preparations for our two-day English final which will be held starting on 12/13](#). We’ll finish up our poetry analysis the week of the 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade GTC**

We’ll be continuing our work on poetry by completing a book of poetry which will be due on Friday, 12/9. We’ll also work on debating skills to prepare us for several projects in History in the last half of the year. In writing, we will focus on argumentative style essays in a more structured format, and learning quoting and citation skills.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade History**

We’ll finish up our Civilization Project on 12/5, with presentations starting that day. After that, we’ll revisit Big Era 3 (early civilizations and farming) and move into Big Era 4, looking at new forms of social organization, communication, and government.

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*Mrs. Taylor*

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### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science:**

We are focused this month on endothermic and exothermic reactions. The students will be learning about which reactants will make the best self-warming or cooling devices, and then will design the device and demonstrate it for the class along with a presentation of their product. This will be the “final exam” for the course this semester.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Biology:**

The students will be finishing up their unit on photosynthesis and cellular respiration and then will have their final exam that covers all of ecology as well as cell energy processes.

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*Fun Things To  
Do Over Winter  
Break!!!*

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Kids University  
Challenge Island  
Discovery Museum  
Kidscape Productions  
City of Reno

## Winter Break Camps!

<http://www.kidsuniversity.unr.edu>

<http://www.challenge-island.com/programs/camps/>

[http://www.nvdm.org/learn\\_explore/seasonal\\_camps.php](http://www.nvdm.org/learn_explore/seasonal_camps.php)

<http://kidscapeproductions.com/camps/>

<http://www.reno.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation-community-services/youth-and-teens/camps-for-kids-vacation-station>