We are hopeful that Winter 2017 is behind us as we look forward to the warming trends on the Spring 2017 horizon. And, what a winter this has been with crazy weather that kept us huddled indoors and cleaning up after snow and rain storms many times over! In order to make up lost academic time due to the inclement weather, students will no longer have early release Wednesdays for the remainder of the school year. This is good news as the other option was extending the school year beyond the scheduled last day of school on Friday, June 9th.

Please remember that Washoe County School District’s policy is that student cell phones are to be turned off during school hours. Please do NOT try to text or call your child via their cell phone. If you need to contact your child, please contact the office and they will pass along messages to your child. Please know that if your child is found on their phones without the express permission and supervision of their teacher, the phone will be confiscated and turned into the SAC and an administrator will contact you. We appreciate your willingness to help us to enforce these rules and expectations. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy, please contact Mrs. Mandeville, Mrs. Callahan, or Mr. Culpepper. Thank you so much for your on-going support with our school policies.

Looking ahead to our 4th Quarter, which will begin as soon as students return from Spring Break, Swope will be on a block schedule with four classes meeting each day. This change is to accommodate testing time. We have a tentative schedule and have posted it below; please know that as the quarter progresses, this schedule is subject to change. The 4th quarter class rotation schedule is posted on the Swope GT website.

8th Grade Families: We are fast approaching ‘High School Transition’ Season! While it can be exciting to start planning for this part of your child’s education, there are some very real deadlines and paperwork that needs to be completed. As soon as possible, please look for a message from your child’s zoned high school in your Infinite Campus in-box and follow the instructions on how to register your child online and update the information we have on file. If you have any issues connecting with IC, please contact the Swope office for help with your password. Additionally, please look for updates on our website regarding High School Transition; we will post any information for Reno High, Wooster IB, and the GATE Institute at Hug High as soon as we receive it.

The permission forms and fees deadline for the annual 8th Grade Bodega Bay Field Trip is fast approaching. All fees ($150 for students and $100 for chaperones) and forms are due to Mrs. Taylor no later than Friday, March 10th. Please contact Mrs. Taylor if the fees are a hardship for your family; we do have a few scholarships available. We want everyone to be a part of this fun-filled academic trip!

Please know that we pack as much curriculum as we can into every single minute your children are scheduled to be in class. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments and/or trips when school is in session. While we understand that this doesn’t always work out, we do appreciate your efforts to have your child here every day. Thank you!
Important Dates for Upcoming Events

- **Wednesday, March 15**
  - 6:00 p.m. 7th Grade Race Car PBLU Event
- **Thursday, March 16**
  - RHS Frosh Day
- **March 13-17**
  - Swope Spirit Week—information to follow
- **Friday, March 17**
  - Swope Spring Dance—12:30-2:00
- **Friday, March 17**
  - End of 3rd Quarter
- **March 20-March 31**
  - Spring Break—No School

High School Transition Information

- **Monday, March 6**
  - RHS Registration Process Begins with Student information session at Swope during the day
- **Monday, March 6**
  - 6:00 p.m. RHS AP and Honors Program Parent Information Session at Reno HS Library—Parents ONLY event
- **Monday, March 13**
  - 6:00 p.m. RHS Parent Information Session at Reno HS—Parents ONLY event
- **Thursday, March 16**
  - 7:30-2:00 p.m. RHS Frosh Day at Reno High School!!!

Spring 2017 Standardized Testing Information

Please be aware that our annual State Mandated Testing will begin upon students’ return from Spring Break. Please see below for testing dates and more information. We respectfully ask that you do your best to have your child in school during these times and dates and adjust any appointments or events so that your child can take these tests according to the schedule. Please know that if your child is absent during testing, he/she will be pulled from class to make up these required tests. Please use the district testing links to find out more about these tests: [http://www.washoeschools.net/Page/346](http://www.washoeschools.net/Page/346) and [http://www.washoeschools.net/Page/853](http://www.washoeschools.net/Page/853). Additionally, use this link for specific SBAC testing information and tutorials: [http://www.washoeschools.net/Page/453](http://www.washoeschools.net/Page/453).

Students in Algebra and Integrated II math classes will be taking the EOC (End of Course) exams instead of the Math SBAC. EOC exams will be administered at the same time as the SBAC math tests and are also state required tests. Keep in mind that the EOC exams are the tests that have replaced the graduation proficiency exams. Here is a link explaining these exams along with student tutorials: [http://www.washoeschools.net/Page/4720](http://www.washoeschools.net/Page/4720).

Please know that these dates are subject to change, so please make sure you are checking these dates each week. **Once again, please make sure your child is in school on the dates they are testing.** Please check the daily rotation for testing dates to see what time students will be testing.
<table>
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<th>Math EOC</th>
<th>Math Performance Task</th>
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<th>Science CRT</th>
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<td>May 16 &amp; 18</td>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>May 9</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>May 10</td>
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*Students enrolled in Integrated II and Algebra will take EOC exams instead of SBAC Math Test*

## Upcoming Field Trips

### 8th Grade Field Trips

**March 16th**
RHS Frosh Day
All 8th graders registering to attend RHS in August 2017
7:30-2:00 p.m.
Lunch is included

**April 17th and 18th**
Bodega Bay
Cost: $150/student and $100/parent chaperones
More Details to follow

**April 10th**
NV Energy
9:30-1:00
Students will need to bring a sack lunch
Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help chaperone! 😊

### 7th Grade Field Trips

### March Classroom Previews

**7th Grade:**
The students are explicating a unit on revolutions throughout the month. Currently they’re examining the American Revolution, followed by the Constitution and finally the French Revolution. The primary focus is what causes revolutions and why revolution was the solution. Students will be required to read a variety of complex primary source documents including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and France’s Rights of Man and of Citizen.

**8th Grade:**
The students are analyzing the origins of World War I, the war itself and Peace Treaty of Versailles. They’ll take part in an in-depth simulation of the Versailles Peace Treaty where they’ll learn the art of geopolitical diplomacy. There’ll be a variety of difficult readings the student’s will be responsible for.
Algebra:
The Algebra 1 Class will begin March with Unit 8: Polynomials. Google Classroom is becoming more and more necessary for this class. We have multiple resources, answer keys and assignments posted on this website. It is imperative that student be able to access this information. Google Classroom can be downloaded to a phone, iPad, or used with a computer. The sign-in information is the same as the students log in to the school computer. If you student is having trouble, please have them take a screen shot so I can help solve the problems.

Algebra II Honors:
The next unit of study will be Unit 8: Logarithms. We will explore the properties of logarithms, solving and graphing logarithms, natural logarithms. Students will need to understand the relationship between logarithms and exponential equations and how the properties of logarithms are related to the properties of exponents.

Integrated II:
Students have completed Unit 9: Proofs and will now move on to Unit 10: Polynomials. This unit will take us close to Spring Break. The next units of study will be Unit 11: Triangle Similarity and Unit 12: Systems of Equations. There will be work sent home over Spring break that students will be asked to complete using multiple resources posted on Google Classroom. All answer keys will be posted the second week of break.

8th Grade ELA:
Our guiding question for the third quarter is “How does imbalance require resilience?” Students are in the process of reading three books—one based on events during World War I, another from World War II, and a third on the Holocaust. Students have several choices for each study and are collaborating in small groups to analyze each of these books. When students complete reading all three books, they will collaborate on a group project that will help them combine the various themes from all of the books into one central idea. Students will then take a final essay assessment covering this novel study the last week of the quarter.

8th Grade GTC:
Students have successfully completed the in-depth study of Cause and Effect Essays and are now moving to the much-anticipated College Project that is a popular tradition here at the Swope Magnet. Before Spring Break, students will look at college and universities across the country and the world. They will ‘apply’ to research the college of their choice. All students will then be ‘accepted’ to a college to research over the course of the fourth quarter. The essential question students will answer during their May 22nd presentation is ‘What do I need to accomplish in high school to be a viable candidate for my dream college?’ Students will present their findings to parents, high school counselors, faculty, and administration. Students will also continue working with NoRedInk.com and Vocabulary.com to build their writing skills.

7th Grade ELA:
For the month of March, students will take the essay test for Undaunted Courage and Captain’s Dog. This will show all they have learned and analyzed about the famous Lewis and Clark expedition. Many students have an enlightened perspective of Meriwether Lewis and his amazing leadership in a time and place where it is best to expect the unexpected.

Students will also collaborate on their team project, a game created for the other students to play that incorporates the obstacles, people, and themes of the expedition. This project
not only requires collaboration skills like communication, compromise and accountability but creativity, innovation and originality. As students play each team’s games, they will be giving feedback to each other. This adds an additional competitive element as each group strives for the “most played” game.

7th Grade GTC:
In writing for the month of March, students continue to work on the technical process paper for the race car project. Students are realizing that writing a paper that does not need figurative language, strong elaboration, or personalization can actually be more difficult. Many students are struggling with being clear (enough detail to help the reader understand) and concise (writing succinctly without unneeded verbiage). It’s truly a fine yet important balance.

Students also began a theme project where they choose one theme of Undaunted Courage that relates to their lives and share a writing piece with the class. I’ve heard ideas ranging from parodies to monologues and everything in between. This project allows students to share topics, interests, and memories they are unable to share in the typical context of academia. Presentations will occur in the last three days of the quarter.

Integrated I:
Wrapping up with the linear unit, we will be covering exponents and radicals. This will be a shift from thinking in patterns and going back to the basics, but upping it a little with new rules of exponents and radicals. This includes combining and simplifying both exponents and radicals. If students are having trouble, Khan academy is a good supplemental resource outside of school. We will be working these two units up to the end of the quarter. Just a reminder, if there is any missing work from your child, please ask them to make it up. Most work will be online and will be accepted with a late penalty (20% of the graded score). If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to email me at apascual@washoeschools.net.

6th Grade Math:
By having fun in the introduction to Algebra unit, I am confident when your child reaches Integrated I and II, he/she will be confident in solving equations as this was just a background in problem solving. In March, students will begin the geometry unit, which is also an introduction to Integrated I. This is a great opportunity for students to strengthen their foundation in geometry. Just a reminder, if there is any missing work from your child, please ask them to make it up. Most work will be online and will be accepted with a late penalty (20% off of the graded score). If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to email me at apascual@washoeschools.net.

6th Grade Science:
Investigation 4 will lead students into the world of fossils. We’ll be looking at fossils that are present in the sedimentary rock layers that are found in the Grand Canyon. We’ll take a literal look at a timeline of Earth history in the form of a 46-meter cord (this will have to take place outside!) with important events marked along the way. At the end of this unit, we’ll look at how Index fossils can be used as a tool to correlate rock layers based on age. Investigation 5 moves us into a study of igneous rocks. We’ll start out with a look at the layers of the earth and identify the characteristics that differentiate igneous from sedimentary rocks. We’ll be modeling crystal formation by using salol to test the effect of cooling rate on crystal formation. We’ll finish this unit by examining a set of igneous rocks and determining if they are intrusive or extrusive, based on crystal size.
**6th Grade English:**
We’ll continue to work through our novel, Sophie’s World. We’ll be looking at the philosophy of the Indo-Europeans and the emergence of the world’s religions, particularly Judaism, Christianity, and Hinduism. We’ll work our way into the Middle Ages with a close look at St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Manichaeism. We’ll be starting a long-term project on this novel where the students have a choice of products that describe their personal philosophy as it relates to those about whom we’ve read so far. Students have a choice of creating a poster, ad campaign, essay, or some sort of artistic representation. This project will be due the week of March 13th. We’ll also have an English final on the 13th and the 15th of that week as well.

**6th Grade GTC:**
After spending a couple of weeks on debate, we’ll move into our large-scale Project-Based Learning Unit. This year, we’ll be looking at Community Service. The students will go through several steps as we move through the project, including assessing the need, planning, and implementing a community service project. They’ll have many choices as to which community actions will best serve their needs and provide the best learning opportunity.

**6th Grade History:**
We’ll finish up our unit on Ancient Rome and move into the world’s five great religions. Students will complete a group project on each of the five and then go a little more in-depth with individual research that attempts to answer the essential questions for this quarter: How are humans impacted by religious conflict? And, what are the effects of religious conflict on humans?

**7th Grade Physical Science:**
We will be furiously getting ready for our Night at the Races, March 15 from 6-8 pm here at Swope Middle School. I am already seeing some AMAZING car designs, so you’re not going to want to miss that! After we reflect on our race car project we will be delving into the world of Energy!

**8th Grade Biology:**
We will be learning about genetics and cell division for the month of March. Make sure that your student has turned in their forms and money for Bodega Bay by March 10.

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

- Kids University [http://www.kidsuniversity.unr.edu](http://www.kidsuniversity.unr.edu)
- Discovery Museum [https://www.nvdm.org/learn/camp-discovery/](https://www.nvdm.org/learn/camp-discovery/)