

Swope Middle School

GT Magnet

*8th Grade Parents:
Please check IC
in-box for
important
information
regarding High
School Transition
Information and
Updates.*

January weather made it a tough transition back to school this semester, but students are back on track with so many exciting things to learn. Thank you for your on-going understanding as we adjusted testing dates and due dates to reflect our loss of academic time. At this time, it is our understanding that enough contingent time was built into our calendar that students will not have to make up the lost days; however, if this changes we'll be sure to let you know as soon as we know.

We recommend that students get to work early in the semester and stay on top of their studies. One really great way to do this is for your child to attend our Tuesday and Thursday after-school tutoring program in the library. Students can stay until to 4:00 p.m. and teachers are available for help. This would also be an ideal location for students to collaborate on their group projects. Students can ride a bus to their zoned elementary school at 4:00 to ease the logistics of picking them up after the study session.

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

*No School on Monday,
February 20th to
celebrate
Presidents' Day!*

Monday, February 20	President's Day—No School
Wednesday, March 15	6:00 p.m. 7 th Grade Race Car PBLU Event
Thursday, March 16	RHS Frosh Day
Friday, March 17	End of 3 rd Quarter
March 20-March 31	Spring Break—No School

High School Transition Information

*RHS Parent Night
is March 13th!*

Friday, February 3	GATE Institute Applications Due
Monday, March 6	RHS Registration Process Begins with Student information session
Monday, March 13	6:00 p.m. RHS Parent Information Session at Reno High School
Thursday, March 16	7:30-2:00 p.m. RHS Frosh Day at Reno High School!!!

Upcoming Field Trips

*8th Grade Field
Trips*

March 16th	RHS Frosh Day All 8 th 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 *Please Note: If you are a chaperone on this overnight field trip, you must have your fingerprints submitted to WSCD no later than February 17 th after getting approval from Mrs. Olano in Swope's front office.

*7th Grade Field
Trips*

February 28th

Discovery Museum

9:30-1:00 p.m.

Students need to bring a sack lunch

Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help chaperone! 😊

Spring Semester TBA

NV Energy

More details to follow

Contact Mrs. Taylor if you would like to help chaperone! 😊

February Classroom Previews

Mr. Bodensteiner

7th Grade:

The 7th graders are finishing up their study of the French and Indian War, and will now begin the American Revolution next week. There'll be a lot of primary source analysis and writing.

8th Grade:

The 8th graders are about to begin their big unit on World War I. They'll be required to analyze some difficult informational texts and projects. They'll also participate in a number of Socratic seminars and film analysis.

Mrs. Cabangon

Algebra

Students have just completed Unit 7: Exponents and Radicals. The next unit for our class is Unit 8: Polynomials. We will work on multiplying, factoring and solving polynomial functions. Please visit the website, cabangonmath.com and Google Classroom for helpful videos, website links, slideshows for notes and answer keys to the various assignments.

Algebra II Honors

Students have just completed Unit 7. The next unit for our class is Exponential and Cubic Functions. Please visit the website, cabangonmath.com and Google Classroom for helpful videos, website links, slideshows for notes and answer keys to the various assignments.

Integrated II

Students will be working on Unit 8: Congruent Triangles and Quadrilaterals and 9: Geometric Proofs during the month of February. Please visit the website, cabangonmath.com and Google Classroom for helpful videos, website links, slideshows for notes and answer keys to the various assignments.

Mrs. Hoy

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 are working hard on the structures of a Cause and Effect Essay and will share the results of their hard work with their peers and then complete a final assessment to show their growth by the end of the month. Students will also continue working with NoRedInk.com and Vocabulary.com to build their writing skills.

Mrs. Leslie

7th Grade ELA:

For the month of February, students will finish reading *Undaunted Courage* and *Captain’s Dog*. They will practice using non-fiction reading strategies and will gain confidence in their ability to read/comprehend informational text more quickly and efficiently! The essay test will occur at the beginning of March.

Students will also finish their independent book project and they will participate in a gallery walk to enjoy each other’s creativity and give them ideas for future reading.

This month students will also prepare a book talk to present. This opportunity helps students gain confidence speaking to an audience with an appropriate conversational style. Students work on remembering information for their talk without memorizing every word.

7th Grade GTC:

In writing for the month of February, students are off to a great start with Sacred Writing Time. Although I provide them with a topic each day, most students are up and running with topics of their choice.

This month, students will finish their short stories. They will use the many literary elements they examined in published short stories in January. The writing focus for this genre is the use of Feytag’s Pyramid to develop a strong plot coupled with varied literary elements to develop a theme.

Also, this month, students will participate in a Race Car Project Based Learning Unit in Science. The English portion will require students to write a technical process paper. Unlike other genres of writing, this type of expository writing requires students to briefly and succinctly write about a process and analyze the results without use of figurative language, strong elaboration, or personalization. Students will focus on strong technical word choice, transitional phrases and concise articulation.

Mr. Pascual

Integrated I

We will keep our focus on functions, and explore more in-depth linear equations. This will include graphing, reading rate-of-change, switching between different forms of linear equations, and translating between graphs and equations. This will be covered in two units. This is a very challenging unit for some, but by working hard everyone will understand this concept by the end of February!

6th Grade Math

We will soon start exploring algebraic expressions over the course of three units, including adding and subtracting like terms, distributive properties, and solving equations and inequalities. This a great opportunity for students to jump start their algebraic knowledge, especially because these concepts will be the focus of Integrated I and Integrated II.

Mr. Shader

6th Grade Science

Our Earth History unit will continue to focus on sedimentary rocks. We'll be taking a look at how sediments accumulate in a basin in a sorted fashion, bond together using substances found in water, and ultimately form sandstone. We'll also look at shale formation. We'll be studying the composition of limestone and how to identify it in nature. We'll be making inferences about past environments based on the evidence found in sedimentary rock layers. And lastly, we'll be looking at fossils and how some can be used as tools to correlate rock layers based on age.

6th Grade English

Our "novel" study continues with "Sophie's World." The word novel is in quotes because this book is way more than a story about the protagonist. Sophie is a young girl who is introduced to the world of Philosophy through a very clever story line. Her journey takes us through a history of Philosophy and Western thought including, (but not limited to!) the Greek Naturalists, Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, and the Hellenists. By the end of the month, we should be up to the Renaissance, the Indo-Europeans, and the existentialist/idealists. We'll also be doing a fun, longer-term project where students will demonstrate their new-found knowledge on some of these amazing thinkers! And we will continue to have some great discussions on this amazing field of study!

6th Grade GTC

After we finish work on an academic essay on Hammurabi's Laws, we'll be doing the majority of the writing that we need to do for English. This quarter, in addition to our daily "sacred writing" time, we'll be doing some short essay-style quizzes on the philosophers that we study in English. We'll be doing some writing on the various schools of thought as well. I'm also planning a long-term, narrative-style essay this month.

6th Grade History

We'll finish up our study of Big Era 4, (Ancient civilizations from 1200 BC to 500 AD) and move into a unit on Ancient China and the Silk Road. I'm planning a relatively short (group) research project on Ancient Rome. Then, we'll move into a longer-term unit on conflict and its impact on religion and answer the question: How are humans impacted by religious conflict and what is the effect of this conflict on humans?

Mrs. Taylor

7th Grade Physical Science:

This month is all about Newton's Laws, Forces, and Motion! We will be exploring these standards by starting our Race Car PBLU. Students will be learning 3D modeling, designing a car, printing out its components, building and testing the car, and then fixing any components that don't work well! This will culminate with an evening presentation to parents and community members.

8th Grade Biology:

This month we will be focusing on cell biology and systems that maintain homeostasis in the body. We will begin genetics at the end of the month.

Spring Break Camps!

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

Kids University	http://www.kidsuniversity.unr.edu
Challenge Island	http://www.challenge-island.com/programs/camps/
Discovery Museum	https://www.nvdm.org/learn/camp-discovery/
Kidscape Productions	http://kidscapeproductions.com/camps/
City of Reno	http://www.reno.gov/government/departments/parks-recreation-community-services/youth-and-teens/camps-for-kids-vacation-station
Galena Creek	http://www.galenacreekvisitorcenter.org/spring-exploration-camp-2017.html