

SCHWEINFURT MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER *Moving Forward.....21st Century Skills*

VOLUME ONE 2007-2008

Learning Is A Lifelong Process

November 2007

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MISSION STATEMENT

Schweinfurt Middle School will continually engage all students in experiences that inspire high achievement and responsible citizenship in a technological, global society.



INSTRUCTIONAL FOCUS = READING COMPREHENSION

Principal's Message

Parent-Teacher Conferences Can Make a Difference

Parent-teacher conferences, by their very nature, can be uncomfortable for both **parents** and **teachers**. On one hand, you have a committed, caring teacher who wants only the best for the student and is simply seeking ways to work with the parents to ensure the child's success. On the other hand, you have committed, caring parents who want the best for their children. Then why can parent/teacher conferences cause so much anxiety for all parties? *Judith Baenen, educator and parent, suggest that **mistrust** is a major issue.* She indicated that sometimes neither parents nor teachers really believe that both simply want the best for the student. Sometimes teachers think that parents aren't giving as much as they are giving to ensure success for the student. Sometimes parents think that teachers don't care as much as they (parent) do or should in order for the student to be successful. According to Ms. Baenen another issue is **fear**. Parents worry that they aren't good parents and teachers sometimes feel like they have let kids down. *Then, there is the issue of **history**.* Teachers have had

(or heard about) an occasional bad experience with parents and are anxious something similar might be repeated. Parents have their

own school memories, and sometimes they are not happy ones. Sometimes there are serious **issues or concerns** that must be dealt with at a conference, and both parties know it but neither wants to act. This can result in accusations and confrontations rather than conversations. Remember that some middle school students are good at telling half-truths. You, as a parent, may have heard half the truth and we may be required to fill in the other half without accusing the student of misrepresenting the truth. Please be assured that **Schweinfurt Middle School Teachers** are thankful for parents coming in for conferences. The teachers will be compassionate and will do everything possible to make parents feel welcome and comfortable. A **successful** parent-teacher conference can be **valuable** for **the student, the parents, and the teacher.**

Dr. George P. Carpenter
Principal

Student of the Month for September

6th Grade
Kiera H.
Florian S.

7th Grade
Anna D.
Stephanie M.

8th Grade
Austin E.
Danielle M.

News From PTSA

Please come out and support our next fundraising event on November 30, *Family Fun Night*.

PTSA Flea Market- A Big Success!
Thank you to everyone who helped make our PTSA Flea Market a success!

Important News:

The PTSA is in need of a Secretary, Treasurer and other Volunteers. If interested please contact Mrs. Janet O'Brien at july66gr1@yahoo.com or Schweinfurt Middle School at 09721-804301.

" Graduation and Beyond"

Several weeks ago every student at Schweinfurt Middle School received a brochure entitled "Graduation and Beyond - DODEA's Guide for Success". DODEA wants to ensure that all military families and students have rewarding educational experience while living abroad. The brochure was developed to assist families and students to understand the planning it takes to be successful in high school and beyond. The website below contains this brochure and other information that you will find useful. Any questions concerning the brochure or the information contained in the brochure please contact Mr. Conrad, 354-6812 or Fred.Conrad@eu.dodea.edu.
<http://www.dodea.edu/students/index.cfm>

Our school webpage contains links to research sites and online textbooks used by our middle school students. Because it is always helpful to begin preparing for life after middle school and high school, students and parents will find information about careers and college. You will find these links at <http://www.schwms.eu.dodea.edu/Middle%20School%20Links.htm>.

Education Technologist



NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

The National Junior Honor Society is a service organization sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. During second semester our school will be inviting students who meet the criteria to join. To be considered, a student must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and have qualities associated with NJHS "see below". Prospective students will receive an application for membership. Once the application has been completed (to include an essay) and returned, a faculty council will review applications and selected students will receive a letter of invitation to attend the school-wide induction ceremony in the spring.

Students considered for membership will be considered in all five of the following areas:

1. Scholastic Achievement
2. Service to the school and the community
3. Leadership
4. Character
5. Citizenship

Schweinfurt Middle School Teacher Sponsor is Ms. K.Rose. The NJHS elected the following members into this year's leadership positions:

President..... Edward B.
Vice President.....Xavier D.
Secretary..... Rafael D.
Historians..... Marissa R. & Frances N.

STUDENT COUNCIL



Student Council is an organization representing student affairs and interests. It is a group of students, elected by students, acting on behalf of the student body. The council seeks to enhance communication between school authorities and students, acting as a manageable group for discussion and decisions that will affect the school program.

Student Council officers for this year are as followed:

President..... Austin E.
Vice-President.....Hailey B.
Secretary.....Korianna P.
Treasurer.....Jacob M.
Parliamentarian.....Kiersten C.

Upcoming Events

Nov 1- Casual Clothes /Reward Day

Nov 2- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Teacher Workday

Nov 8- NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS-

Parent/Teacher Conferences

800-1100 Teacher Scheduled Conferences

1100-1200 Lunch

1200-1300 Individually Teacher Scheduled Conferences

1300-1500 Walk In Conferences

Nov 9- Continuous School Progress

And

School Improvement Training for Teachers

Nov 12- NO SCHOOL- Veteran's Day

Nov 21- School Advisory Meeting @ 1500



Nov 21- Turkey Trot @ 1330



Nov 22-23 NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving Holiday

**Nov 30- Family Fun Night for Middle Schoolers & Parents/ Dance
for students/ Bingo for parents @ 1800**

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) News

AVID students have finished writing their essays themed “Why I Am An American Patriot” for a youth contest called “Patriot’s Pen”, sponsored by the VFW (Veterans of Foreign War). Judges will select the top three finishers from Schweinfurt Middle School. The best one or two will move on to district competition, with a chance to compete Europe wide and then nationally.

All eighth grade AVID students took the PSAT on October 17, 2007 at the Middle School. Results will be shared with students and sent home as soon as we receive them.

All AVID students will begin to build electronic port-folios second quarter. We will create a template for documenting school and community accomplishments. Students will have opportunities to create artifacts of their work through a variety of multimedia presentations.

Eighth grade AVID students will start a grade level entrepreneurial project this quarter. They will create a family café to be operational during our Family Fun Nights (Nov 30th and March 28th). Profits will be deposited into the PTSA account and will be in part used to finance the celebration of eighth graders during the Middle School Zone Spring Formal. Students will perform research to determine the menu and pricing, marketing to advertise, production and service and quality assurance during operations, and finance to include profit spreadsheets. They will practice leadership skills in training and working with the entire eighth grade class.

Seventh grade AVID students will start a collaborative project designing and constructing gingerbread houses. This project will require teamwork, creative problem solving, measurement, and computation.

Sixth grade AVID students will begin reading and discussing short stories from the Jr. Great Book Series. These activities are designed to promote reading comprehension, critical thinking, and enhance vocabulary. We have not determined our sixth grade collaborative project at this time.

The AVID Program is currently looking for AVID Tutors. Qualifications include being hired as a Substitute Teacher and ability to tutor in mathematics through Algebra I. We are also in need of volunteer tutors during our end of the day tutorials to assist in Foreign Language (German and Spanish) tutoring. Department of Defense Dependents Schools

Schweinfurt Middle School

Continuous School Progress

(CSP)

MISSION STATEMENT

Schweinfurt Middle School will engage all students in meaningful experiences that develop 21st Century Skills, preparing them to be successful and responsible citizens in a technological, global humanity.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. Expect high achievement regarding core standards.
2. Promote Learning and Thinking Skills.
3. Promote Information & Technology Literacy.
4. Promote Life Skills.

Investigate 21st Century Content Areas

GOALS:

**READING
COMPREHENSION**

MATH

**Department of Defense Dependents Schools
(DoDDS)
Acceleration Program**

A DoDDS student whose sponsor is making a Permanent Change of Duty Station (PCS) may request to accelerate and receive credit for the semester. In order to do so, it is recommended that the sponsor request permission to accelerate as soon as possible or at least within 30 days of the DoDDS acceleration date. A copy of the sponsor's PCS orders should be provided. The student will be required to complete any additional assignments given by the teachers. A student must attend school through the end of the school day on December 13, 2007 or May 15, 2008. In other words, Students MUST attend school all day on the school day directly preceding the early withdrawal date. December 13, 2007 or May 15, 2008 is the earliest date that a request for acceleration can be approved. A student, who is PCSing, may accelerate at any time after the earliest acceleration date, up to the end of the semester. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns regarding acceleration.

Dr. George P. Carpenter
Principal
Schweinfurt Middle School