

# SCHWEINFURT MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

*Moving Forward.....21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills*

VOLUME ONE 2007-2008

Learning Is A Lifelong Process

OCTOBER 2007

Dr. George Carpenter  
Principal

Phone: DSN 354-6813 or CIV 09721-804301

Mr. Michael Thompson  
District Superintendent

Phone: CIV 0981-183430



## 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**

## OPEN HOUSE

### “Meeting The Parents”

On September 13<sup>th</sup> Schweinfurt Middle School held its annual Open House, starting promptly at 1600. Parents picked up a copy of the agenda, and our evening opened with the audience reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the opening, Dr. George Carpenter, our Principal, introduced our PTSA President, Janet O'Brien. She introduced the PTSA Board members.

Dr. Carpenter stressed the importance of Parental involvement in the school and its affect on student achievement. Parents were encouraged to become involved in the School Advisory Committee (SAC) School Improvement Committee and the PTSA.

Staff members including our new teachers were introduced. Following the introductions, the Grade Level Teams met with parents to explain the curriculum, classroom management plans, share information about individual classes, and answer questions. The night's activities ended with refreshments in the cafeteria, provided by the PTSA.

We are extremely excited about our school year and the partnership we have with our parents, students and teachers. We are looking forward to another outstanding year.

George P. Carpenter  
“Principal”

## Force Protection:

### Safety and Security of Your Wonderful Children

Parents, we need your help to ensure that your children are safe. *Please talk with your children each day about plans for them after school.*

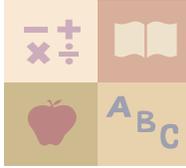
We *cannot* give phone messages to students during the school day. If you do have an *emergency* and *cannot come to school* to deliver the message, you may *email or fax* the school secretaries or call *09721-84363*. We *need to have this in writing*. Thank you for understanding. We want to keep your children safe!!



## Upcoming Events

- October 2- After school Activities @1500
- October 8- (NO SCHOOL) Columbus Day
- October 13 - PTSA Flea Market 1000-1500
- October 17- SAC Meeting @ 1500
- October 19-20 2- Ansbach Bazaar
- October 22-26- Red Ribbon Week
- November -End of 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr.
- November 2- SIP DAY/ No School For Students
- November 5- 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. Begins





**AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: October 2, 2007 – May 1, 2008**

<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>DAYS HELD</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PARENT SIGNATURE</u>
Intramurals	Thursdays	3:10 – 4:10	
Math Counts	Tuesday	3:10 – 4:10	
Music	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday	3:10 – 3:55	
Reading For Fun	Tuesday	3:10 – 4:15	
Math Game Club 6 <sup>th</sup> graders only	Wednesday	3:10 – 4:10	
Math Think Tank 7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> graders only	Wednesday	3:10 – 4:10	
Technology Fair and Yearbook	A Days ONLY	3:10 – 4:10	
Odyssey of the Mind	Tuesday and Thursday	3:10 – 4:30	
NJHS <b>Invitation ONLY</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays	3:10 – 4:00	<b>By Invitation only</b>
Student Council <b>Elected Positions</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesdays	3:10 – 4:10	<b>Elected to this position</b>

**\*If there is a cancellation due to weather or a change with any of the activities listed above, an announcement will be made during Tutorial and an email sent if an email address is provided.**

**Music – A variety of music experiences will be offered depending on the interests of the students. (You do not have to attend everyday)**



***Odyssey of the Mind – Students are engaged in creative problem solving. One team of seven students will compete in the Europe-wide contest. Try-outs will be held during October.***

**Reading For Fun – A variety of reading activities will be explored along with interests of the students.**

**Math Game Club (6<sup>th</sup> grade) – Students will increase proficiency in prerequisite math skills by playing engaging math based games.**

**Math Think Tank (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades) –An engaging, fun-filled, math session that will keep you on your toes using all the basic skills needed for 7th and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math.**

**Intramurals** – (2<sup>nd</sup> semester) Students will participate in recreational sports to include: badminton, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, field hockey, and basketball.



**Technology Fair** – Students will work individually or groups to create technology projects to be submitted in the Technology Fair at the end of April.

**Yearbook** – Students will work on the production of the 2007-2008 SMS Yearbook

**Math Counts** – Math Counts is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. The MATHCOUNTS competition series (school, local, state and national) provides students with the challenge of learning new skills and sharpening their existing math skills while thoroughly enjoying the experience and developing mathematical aptitude, self-confidence and teamwork to better prepare them for their future role in the 21st century with the foundation for success in science, technology, engineering or mathematics careers

**Student Council** – **The Student Council is an organization consisting of students elected by their peers to represent them, speak for them and act for them with the administration in matters of activities and services benefiting the students**

**National Junior Honor Society** - ***(BY INVITATION ONLY)*** NJHS is a service-orientated organization that works on community and school service projects.

### School Advisory Committee (SAC)

The **School Advisory Committee (SAC)** is accepting nominations for membership on the Schweinfurt Middle School's **School Advisory Committee (SAC)** for school year 2007-2008. Please submit the names of candidates that you recommend to Mr. Ali Nur Samad, **SAC** Chair, at: [Samad.Alinur@EUR.ARMY.MIL](mailto:Samad.Alinur@EUR.ARMY.MIL) or to the main office at the school.

We need at least three (3) to four (4) nominees for **SAC**. The **SAC** meets the third Wednesday of every month from 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm in the school's Information Center. The **SAC** advises the school principal on matters related to the operation and management of the school, program and activities. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend.



### Using Our Technology



Since the first weeks of September all middle school students have been logging into their network accounts to complete daily assignments. These in-house network accounts let students use word processing, spreadsheet and presentation applications and save their work to network directories.

Students are using new online DoDEA database sites to find information. Most of these sites can be accessed from home as well as from school. Students carry a list of these web sites in their planner/binders for reference any time.

Students have their official email accounts which they can log into at school and from home using the site <https://www.doddse.net>. Ask your middle schooler to show you their email account. Students will use their email to communicate with teachers, with friends, and with their family. Since correspondence by email is a 21st century tool, students will always write complete sentences and spell out all words when using their [doddse.net](https://www.doddse.net) email accounts. Students will be using their email accounts to practice communication skills and to improve their personal productivity.



# PSAT FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS



The Pre-SAT Assessment will be given October 17 and is available for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders only. The cost is \$13.00. This gives your 8<sup>th</sup> grader a practice opportunity for the SAT, a college entrance examination. Any questions please contact our counselor at 354-6812.

**AVID NEWS**  
(Advancement Via Individual Determination)

## **AVID (Advancement VIA Individual Determination)**

The **AVID** Site Team would first like to thank the parents and **AVID** students who attended the Schweinfurt Middle School Open House. Our staff greatly appreciates parent interest and involvement because it is essential in the educational success of our students.

Schweinfurt Middle School added 6<sup>th</sup> grade **AVID** to its program this year. In addition to focus on writing and study skills, we will practice higher-level thinking and questioning skills through readings from Junior Great Books.

All **AVID** students are currently writing an essay themed “**Why I Am An American Patriot**”. Once completed, they will be entered into a youth contest called “**Patriot’s Pen**”, sponsored by the **VFW** (Veterans of Foreign War). There are opportunities to win awards at the local, district, department (Europe), and national levels. One of our **AVID** 8<sup>th</sup> graders last year earned 1<sup>st</sup> place through the department level and a chance to participate nationally. Winnings included \$200 savings bond, \$100 cash, \$1000 savings bond, each accompanied with certificates and/or winning plaque.

Eighth graders are encouraged to take the **PSAT** on **October 17, 2007** at the Middle School. This is a requirement for all **AVID** 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Please see details above.

**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 (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**



**DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL  
SCHWEINFL'RT MIDDLE SCHOOL  
CMR 457  
APO AE 09033**



September 04, 2007

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Parents and Staff**

**SUBJECT: Asbestos Management Program**

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act, all buildings occupied by Schweinfurt Middle School were inspected for asbestos-containing materials in July 2005.

Samples of suspected asbestos-containing materials were taken during the inspection and were submitted to a laboratory for analysis. Some asbestos-containing materials have been identified. These include vinyl floor tiles and adhesive, windowsills in stairwells, and the skim coat for wall and ceiling plaster in selected locations. These materials were found to be undamaged and no abatement or removal was deemed necessary.

Copies of the inspections reports and the school Asbestos Management Plan are located in the school office and are available for review.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George P. Carpenter".

**DR. GEORGE P. CARPENTER  
PRINCIPAL**

**CC: Parents**



## *Principal's Message*

**Continuous School Progress (CSP)** - Continuous School Progress, formerly known as school improvement, is addressed through DoDDS association with the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI). The major focus of the CSP process and NCA visits are to enhance and improve student achievement. A team from the NCA visited Schweinfurt Middle School (SMS) school in 2003, validated the school's CSP process and compliance with accreditation standards, identified strengths and needs for improvement, and issued a letter stating that the school was accredited for the next five years. The next NCA visit to SMS is scheduled for the spring of 2008. Continuous School Progress is a five-year cycle. We are currently in year-two. Year one normally includes Phase I through IV of the CSP process. During year one, the school makes or renews the commitment, collects and analyzes data, develops a mission statement and selects appropriate goals. Year two normally includes Phases V and VI of the CSP process. During year two, the school is involved in developing, implementing and monitoring the implementation of the CSP Plan. Years three, four and five normally include Phases VII and VIII of the CSP process. During years three through five the school will be involved in monitoring the implementation of the CSP Plan and documenting student success or lack of it and continuing the CSP process.

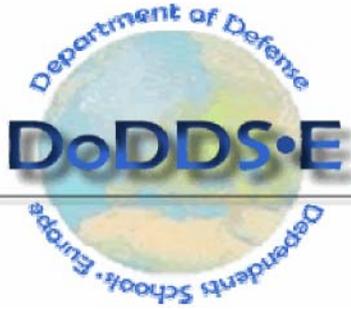
**Parental and Community** involvement and participation is crucial in the CSP process. We have parents and community representatives who are members of the CSP Leadership Team. These committee members assist in conducting research on teaching strategies or interventions to improve student achievement, attend CSP workshops, and assist in developing, implementing and monitoring the CSP five-year plan. We will keep you informed regarding our goals. Plans and activities related to CSP. The faculty, community, parent, and student representatives worked on the Continuous School Progress plan during the last teacher in-service day on September 21, 2007.

**Dr. George P. Carpenter**  
**Principal**

**Developing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills**

**Child Find**

**The Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) designed Child Find to locate children not currently enrolled in school but have needs requiring special education services. Children are screened and assessed to determine the nature and extent of special services needed. Appropriate support can then be provided using available resources. Contact our Case Study Committee Coordinator (CSC-C), at the school for more information about Child Find.**



Office of the Director, DoDDS-Europe  
Diana J. Ohman, Director

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### **Encouragement and involvement equal student success**

As the new school year begins, it is also time to encourage good habits and routines that can help your child succeed academically. These include family practices as well as the development of individual routines for both students and parents.

It is important for students to build time into their daily schedule to complete homework assignments and review the day's lessons. Students should have non-academic time in their schedule to unwind, play sports, enjoy a hobby, or spend a few quiet minutes talking to parents or friends. They also need to get a good night's rest, and have an energy building breakfast before heading out to school.

**Parental encouragement** and **involvement** can make a significant difference in a child's academic success. If your child receives a high mark on an assignment, congratulate them and encourage their hard work. However, if your child's grades are less than anticipated, rather than punish your child, find out if there is a particular area that your child is having trouble understanding, and work with the teacher to provide additional assistance and support in that area. Parents can find out a lot about what is being taught at school by reviewing a child's homework, asking about specific lessons they learned, and discussing what they most enjoyed doing that day and what they least enjoyed.

Although parent-teacher conferences aren't normally held until the end of the first quarter, get to know your child's teachers early in the school year. Positive and open parent-teacher interactions are a crucial part of students' success. Parents who forge a cooperative partnership with the school staff provide their children with the best opportunity for academic success.

Become an **active** member of your school community--**volunteer** at the school, join the **PTA/PTSA/PTO**, attend **SAC** meetings, or assist with special school events. Together we can meet our number one goal, highest student achievement.

Thank you for your support.  
**DIANA J. OHMAN** Director, DoDDS-Europe

## **SOME ACRONYMS FREQUENTLY USED IN DoDDS**

<b>ACDE</b>	<b>Advisory Council on Dependents' Education</b>
<b>ACT</b>	<b>American College Testing</b>
<b>AP Classes</b>	<b>Advanced Placement Classes</b>
<b>ASACS</b>	<b>Adolescent Substance Abuse Counseling Service</b>
<b>ASVAB</b>	<b>Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery</b>
<b>AVID</b>	<b>Advancement via Individual Determination</b>
<b>CI</b>	<b>Communication Impaired</b>
<b>CRC</b>	<b>Case Review Committee</b>
<b>CSC</b>	<b>Case Study Committee</b>
<b>DARE</b>	<b>Drug Abuse Resistance Education</b>
<b>DDESS</b>	<b>Domestic Dependents Elementary &amp; Secondary Schools</b>
<b>DoDDS</b>	<b>Department of Defense Dependents Schools</b>
<b>DoDEA</b>	<b>Department of Defense Education Activity</b>
<b>DSO</b>	<b>District Superintendent's Office</b>
<b>EDIS</b>	<b>Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (Formerly known as Medically Related Services)</b>
<b>EI</b>	<b>Emotionally Impaired</b>
<b>ELL</b>	<b>English Language Learners (Formerly Known as English as a Second Language (ESL))</b>
<b>GPA</b>	<b>Grade Point Average</b>
<b>HI</b>	<b>Hearing Impaired</b>
<b>IAC</b>	<b>Installation Advisory Council</b>
<b>IC</b>	<b>Information Center (Formerly known as Library)</b>
<b>IDEA</b>	<b>Individual with Disabilities Education Act</b>
<b>IEP</b>	<b>Individual Education Plan</b>
<b>ITP</b>	<b>Individual Transition Plan</b>
<b>JROTC</b>	<b>Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps</b>
<b>LI</b>	<b>Learning Impaired</b>
<b>MUN</b>	<b>Model United Nations</b>
<b>NCA</b>	<b>North Central Association</b>
<b>NCAA</b>	<b>National Collegiate Athletic Association</b>
<b>NHS</b>	<b>National Honor Society</b>
<b>NJHS</b>	<b>National Junior Honor Society</b>
<b>PSAT</b>	<b>Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test</b>
<b>PTSA</b>	<b>Parent, Teacher, Student Association</b>
<b>RIS</b>	<b>Reading Improvement Specialist</b>
<b>SAC</b>	<b>School Advisory Council</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>Scholastic Assessment Test</b>
<b>SHP</b>	<b>School-Home Partnership</b>
<b>SILT</b>	<b>School Improvement Leadership Team</b>
<b>SIP</b>	<b>School Improvement Plan</b>
<b>TAG</b>	<b>Talented and Gifted/Enrichment Program</b>
<b>VI</b>	<b>Visually Impaired</b>

Compiled by Dr. George P. Carpenter

**They Are Teenagers**

So you have a teenager in your household. Congratulations! The next few years of your life will be filled with concerns about the most active, rambunctious, loving, self-absorbed, scared, (and scary) group of young people around. They love to eat your food but complain about your cooking. They crave your attention, yet complain that you are watching them too closely. They tell you terrible jokes then criticize your sense of humor. If their hair is straight, they want it curly; if they are short, they want to be tall; if they are tall, they complain that they are not like their friends or peers. One day, they eat anything that they can find, and the next day they complain about the school's cafeteria food, your chicken, and they way everything in the refrigerator "tastes funny." They must have a certain outfit or pair of shoes, and—after you have struggled to find a way to purchase these items—they abandon them at school, in the closet, or under the bed.

### **Who are These Young People We are Talking About?**

- They are wonderful.
- They are scary.
- They have a particular outlook on the world.
- They are adventuresome. They are cautious.
- They try on styles of behavior and dressing.
- They want to be independent but in spite of what they say, they need their parents more than ever.
- Most of all, they are special.
- They will never be this age again.
- We ought to be thoughtful, informed and supportive.
- We ought to make the most of this time for them and for ourselves.