***“NEWS YOU CAN USE”***

**SMS PARENT NEWSLETTER**

**April 2019**

**SMS Students and Citizens of the Month for March 2019:**

**STUDENTS OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH: CITIZENS OF THE MONTH FOR MARCH:**

**6th Grade:  Kylee Dines 6th Grade:  Cayden Oudbier**

**7th Grade:  Alyssa Horrigan 7th Grade:  Abby Duff**

**8th Grade:  Emalynn Benham 8th Grade:  Mackenzie Klein**

**Friendly Warm Weather Reminders:**

When we return from Spring Break, we will likely be experiencing warmer weather.  This means that many of our students begin wearing different attire. Please help us support our students by abiding by our SMS Dress Code.  As a friendly reminder, I have included a copy of this policy for you to review below.

**SMS Dress Code:**

Examples of the types of clothing that could be inappropriate if worn to school includes, but are not limited to:

● spaghetti strap/shoulderless, tube, halter, bare midriff tops, racerback or backless shirts

● tank tops less than three (3) fingers width or large arm openings, plunging necklines

● see-through items

● low rise jeans, sagging pants, or any shirts that have large or inappropriate holes or pants with holes above fingertip length, shorts with an inseam above fingertip length

**2019 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony:**

* Wednesday, May 22nd @ 7:00pm
* Sparta High School Gymnasium
* No Limit to Number of Guests for Each Family
* Dance with Food and Refreshments Until 10:00pm Following the Ceremony in High School Cafeteria
* All 8th Grade Students Participating in Recognition will participate in a mandatory rehearsal during school on the day of the ceremony.
* More detailed information will be communicated soon as the planning process continues!

**8th Grade East Coast Trip Update(s):**

Dear Parents, 

Your child has signed up for the 8th Grade East Coast Trip this summer.  Recently, I have received emails regarding the letter that Superintendent Bush sent out about the possibility of our school year being extended.  Parents were concerned how this extension would impact the trip. Upon receiving this email, I reached out to Countryside Tours. I met with Mr. Wood, who then met with our superintendent.  It was decided that the East Coast Trip will continue on the original dates. Students and chaperones will leave on Sunday, June 9 and return on Saturday, June 15.

After meeting with Mr. Wood, there a couple of things that each student needs to make sure that they do prior to leaving on the East Coast Trip.  These include:

1. **Students are responsible for taking any final exams that have credit implications at the high school (ie. Spanish I or II, Algebra I, etc.) before leaving on the trip.**
2. **Students are responsible for taking all unit tests before leaving on the trip.**

Parents DO NOT need to call the school to excuse a child that is on the East Coast Trip. The school will receive a trip roster indicating which 8th grade students are on the trip.  Students will be marked excused and on “school business”. I will turn this information into the office.

On a side note, the mandatory student/parent meeting for the East Coast Trip has been scheduled for Thursday, April 18 @ 7:00 pm in the Middle School Cafe.  Please plan on attending this important meeting with your student. Information should be coming home in the near future regarding this meeting and final payment due dates.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Keith Tidey

keith.tidey@spartaschools.org

***Strive for Less Than 5***

**How you can help your child(ren) make every day count:**

* **Be on time, every time**
* **Set appointments before and after school**
* **Plan vacations when school is out**

At Sparta Area Schools we take seriously the responsibility of working with parents and families to prepare our students for success at school and beyond.  Being successful at school means being present and on-time for school consistently. Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure that your child(ren) are at school each day.  Please help us promote the challenge we want all students and families to meet...**Less than 5 absences each school year**!

**SMS Building Calendar:**

**Wednesday, March 27th:**  End of Marking Period 3

**Thursday, March 28th-Sunday, April 7th:**  SPRING BREAK

**Monday, April 8th:**  School Resumes/1st Day of 4th Marking Period

**Friday, April 12th:**  MP3 Progress Reports Sent Home

**Friday, April 19th:**½ Day for Students/Release Time is 10:35am for SMS

**Friday, May 17th:**½ Day for Students/Release Time is 10:35am for SMS

**Sparta Education Foundation (SEF):  Upcoming Events**

**RetroBowl 2019 at Sparta Lanes:**

***Be sure to mark your calendar and watch for these upcoming Sparta Education Foundation fundraising events:***

* **"Food for Thought”** Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 5-10 p.m. at Downtown Trini's & Margarita Joe's 148 E. Division St. in downtown Sparta. Must present coupon at time of order. Trini's will generously donate 10% of all sales (dine in and take out) and 100% of all donations put in our SEF "tip jars" (only) (located at hostess stand and back bar).

The Sparta Education Foundation's mission is to provide creative, progressive and innovative educational opportunities for Sparta Area Schools students which are beyond the normal operating budget of the school district. We provide the “Extras for Education!”. You may donate year-round 24 hours a day at [www.spartaschools.org/sef](http://www.spartaschools.org/sef).

Like us on Facebook at Sparta Education Foundation MI or visit us at spartaschools.org/sef.

**Standardized Testing Season Begins Soon!**

When we return on Monday, April 8th, please be aware that we are beginning our season of standardized testing which includes the PSAT for our 8th graders on Tuesday, April 9th and the M-STEP for all grade levels which will take place April 16th-May 8th. YOUR STUDENT’S ATTENDANCE IN THE COMING WEEKS IS IMPERATIVE! Upon our return from Spring Break, you will receive communications about testing that will include specific realities about the PSAT (a highly regulated standardized test that is taking the place of the M-STEP Math and ELA tests for our 8th grade students) as well as details about individual testing days.

**8th Grade PSAT & M-Step Testing Schedule**

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| --- | --- |
| **TESTING DATE(S)** | **GRADE LEVEL/CONTENT** |
| Monday, April 8th | 8th Grade Pre-ID Activity (Fill out all testing forms in advance for PSAT)  |
| Tuesday, April 9th | PSAT 8th Grade Testing:  ELA and Math |
| Wednesday, April 10th through Tuesday, April 16th | PSAT Make-Up for 8th Graders:  ELA and Math |
| Tuesday, April 16th through Thursday, April 18th | M-Step Science for 8th Graders |
| Wednesday, April 17th | M-Step Paper & Pencil Testing for 8th Grade Science |
| Thursday, April 18th | M-Step Paper & Pencil Testing for 8th Grade Social Studies |
| Friday, April 19th through Wednesday, May 1st | M-Step Make-Up for 8th Graders:  Science |
| Tuesday, April 23rd through Thursday, April 25th | M-Step for 8th Graders:  Social Studies  |
| Monday, April 22nd through Friday, April 26th | PSAT Make-Up for 8th Graders:  ELA & Math |
| Monday, April 22nd through Wednesday, May 1st | M-Step Make-Up for 8th Graders:  Science & Social Studies |

 **6th & 7th Grade M-Step Testing Schedule**

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| --- | --- |
| **Testing Date(s)** | **Grade Level/Content** |
| Tuesday, April 30th through Friday, May 3rd | M-Step for 6th & 7th Graders:  ELA |
| Tuesday, April 30th through Wednesday, May 1st | M-Step Paper & Pencil Testing for 7th Grade ELA |
| Thursday, May 2nd through Friday, May 3rd | M-Step Paper & Pencil Testing for 6th Grade ELA |
| Monday, May 6th through Friday, May 10th | M-Step for 6th & 7th Graders:  Math |
| Monday, May 6th | M-Step Make-Up for Paper & Pencil ELA (6th & 7th Grades) |
| Tuesday, May 7th  | M-Step Paper & Pencil Testing for 7th Grade Math |
| Wednesday, May 8th | M-Step Paper & Pencil Testing for 6th Grade Math |
| Thursday, May 9th through Friday, May 10th | M-Step Paper and Pencil Testing Make-Up for ELA & Math |
| Monday, May 13th through Thursday, May 16th | M-Step Make-Up Testing for ELA & Math (6th & 7th Grades) |

**News from our School Nurse, Mrs. Amy Roelse:**

**April Wellness Tips **

·         Eat regular healthy meals and regular healthy snacks and do not skip meals. Try to eat meals and snacks at the same times each day.

·         Get regular exercise and a little bit of sunshine. Do not forget to protect your skin with sunscreen.

·         Limit screen time. Too much screen time can interfere with a child’s ability to communicate effectively and get regular exercise.

·         Get enough rest and sleep. Try to go to bed at the same time each night and get up at the same time each morning.

·         Wash hands regularly before and after eating and toileting. Use warm water and soap and make sure you rinse and dry well.

·         Visit your doctor once a year and your dentist twice a year. Do not hesitate to call your doctor or dentist if you have any concerns about your health.

Sincerely,

Nurse Amy

<http://spartaschools.org/other/nurseinformation/>