***“NEWS YOU CAN USE”***

**SMS PARENT NEWSLETTER**

**May 2019**

**End-of-School Year Calendar:**

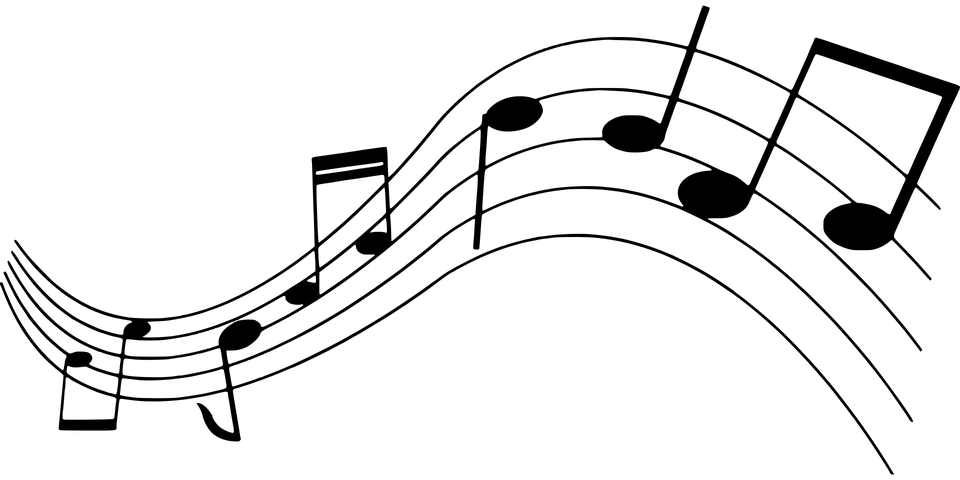
* Friday, May 17th: ½ Day for Students, 10:35am Release
* Wednesday, May 22nd: 8th Grade Recognition Rehearsal (During School Day) & Recognition Ceremony @ 7pm at Sparta High School Gymnasium
* Monday, May 27th: No School, Memorial Day
* Monday, June 10th & Tuesday, June 11th: ½ Days for Students, 10:35am Release
* Tuesday, June 11th: **Last Day of School**

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

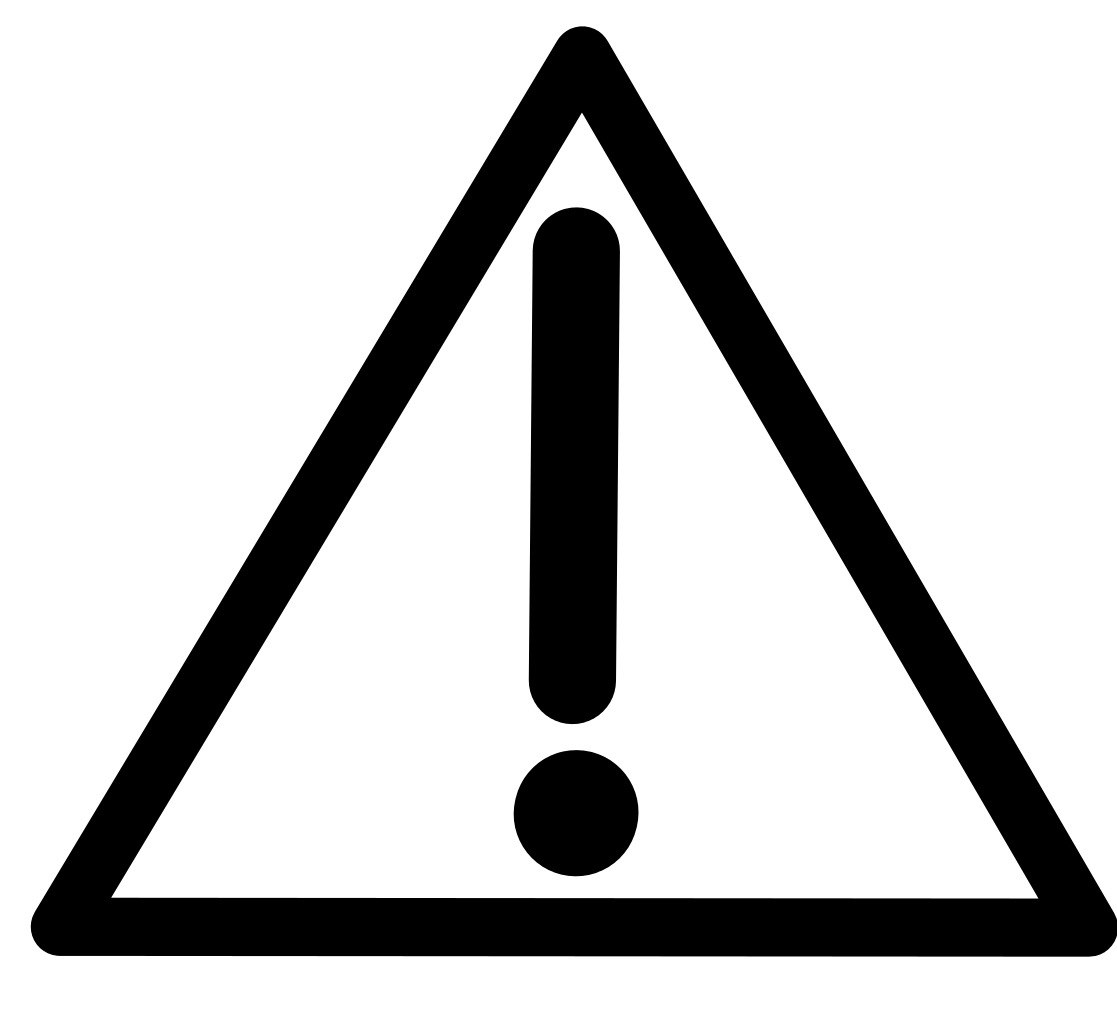
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| **Testing Date(s)** | **Grade Level/Content** |
| Monday, May 6th through Friday, May 10th | M-Step for 6th & 7th Graders: Math |
| Monday, May 6th | M-Step Make-Up for Paper & Pencil ELA (6th & 7th Grades) |
| Tuesday, May 7th | M-Step Paper & Pencil 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) |

**No Final Exams for 2nd Semester!**

* Student at SMS will NOT have 2nd Semester Final Exams with the exception of high school credit bearing classes (Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Algebra 1). Students will complete their coursework in each class with their final unit/chapter tests.

**Sparta Middle School Band & Choir Performances:**

* **Thursday, May 9**: Combined 8th Grade Band and HS Band Concert 7:00 PM
* **Thursday, May 16**: Spring Choir/Jazz Band Concert (8th Grade Choir) 7:00 PM
* **Tuesday, May 21**: Middle School Spring Concert (6th and 7th Bands) 7:00 PM

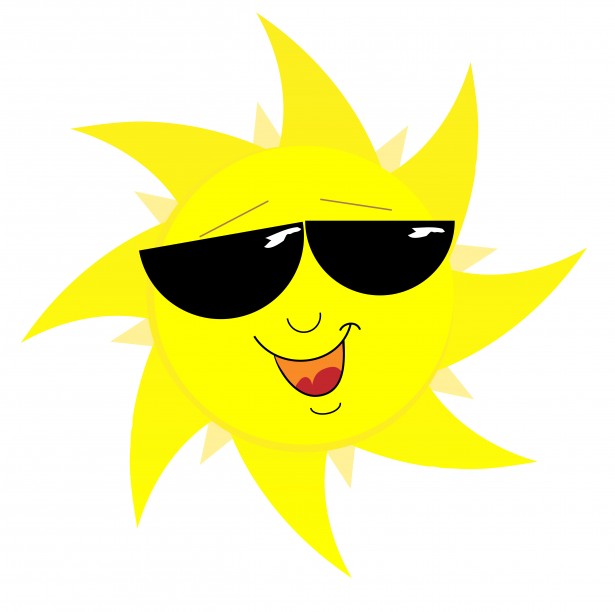
**Attention Parents of Incoming 6th Grade Students:**

**2019 SMS 5th Grade Parent Informational Meetings**

**Evening Option:** Thursday, May 16th, from 6:00pm-7:00pm in the Sparta Middle School Library

**Morning Option:** Friday, May 24th from 8:45am-9:45am in the Sparta Middle School Library

This event is for all current 5th grade parents who will have students attending Sparta Middle School as 6th graders for the 2019-2020 school year. We want to help you stay informed so you can help us make the transition to 6th fun and successful!

**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

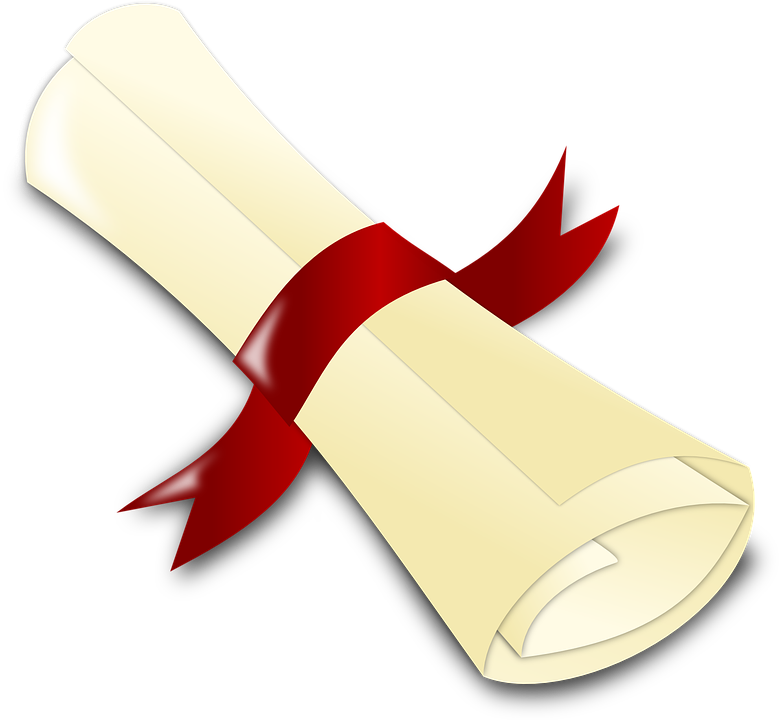
● see-through items

● 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

*Please remind your student(s) that they are not to walk off-campus at anytime* after being dropped off or arriving on the bus. We have many students who try to walk to WESCO in the mornings with the warmer weather. We want to eliminate this issue to ensure students are safe and accounted for at all times. THANK YOU!

**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.

**SMS 8th Grade Recognition Rehearsal Schedule**

**Wednesday, May 22nd**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Scheduled Activity** |
| 7:20-8:20 | 8th grade students report to 1st hour class |
| 8:25-9:25 | 8th grade students report to 2nd hour class |
| 9:30am | 8th graders will be dismissed to the cafeteria over the intercom |
| 9:35-9:45 | 8th graders will meet in the cafeteria to receive instructions on where to go when they arrive at SHS then get on buses to leave. |
| 9:45-9:55 | Buses depart to SHS and offload...students will report to SHS Auditorium for rehearsal debrief |
| 10:15-12:05 | 8th grade Recognition Rehearsal in SHS Fieldhouse |
| 12:10-12:50 | Lunch in SHS Cafeteria (Students can bring a sack lunch or get hot lunch as they normally would.) |
| 12:55 | Load buses, return to SMS/**Students with signed permission slips may be picked up by their parent/guardian at SHS** |
| 1:00pm | Students arrive at SMS, report to regularly scheduled classes for the remainder of the school day |

*\*Students may only be picked up by their parent/guardian or someone specified on their emergency contact form in PowerSchool. Additionally, students need to submit their permission slip in advance (deadline will be specified in future communications).*



**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](mailto: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**!