



SMS Monday Message: September 2



Good evening, Spartan Family! This is Matthew A. Mason, proud principal of Sandusky Middle School, and here are the announcements for the week of September 3 - 6. This message has been forwarded to our SMS family via email, and will also be available on our website under the Sunday Messages tab.

- This year, all students will be receiving Chromebook laptop computers to provide more engaging opportunities in the classroom. 8th and 7th grade students received their computers last Tuesday, August 20. 6th grade students will receive their Chromebooks beginning the 2nd 9 weeks (October). Parents!!! Please be sure and purchase the \$20 insurance that covers breakage during the year. Cracked screens top the list of most often repairs at \$37 for replacement. It's a decision that pays for itself!
- Parents, please begin using the student drop off loop in the mornings. We need to keep our bus loop clear as students are being dropped off and buses are in movement constantly in the mornings and afternoons. To get to our student drop off, please use the second entrance on Sanhill Drive. Thank you!
- Parents, if you have a student attending a high school athletic event, please be ready to pick them up fifteen minutes before the ending of the game. All middle school students need to be picked up from games in a timely manner. This helps our high school partners provide adequate safety for all in attendance. Thank you, and please continue to enjoy our high school events.
- Parents and students, if you have any questions regarding day-to-day concerns at SMS, please reach out to the following individuals for support: For bullying, weekend food bags via Food for Thought, and

support with grief over the unfortunate death of a loved one (Kid's Haven), please reach out to our School Counseling department. For attendance concerns, please reach out to Ms. Michelle Wooldridge, our Attendance Coordinator. For finance please contact Ms. Patricia Wooldridge, our Office Manager. For grading and classroom questions, please reach out to the appropriate teacher. Finally, for other concerns, please reach out to either Mr. Kerns (A-K) or Ms. Leigh (L-Z), our two assistant principals. Thank you.

- Sandusky Middle School is fortunate to have the 21st Century Afterschool Program to better support students in math and English. This program provides after school tutoring and snacks for all participants, and also enrichment times each day with classes like cooking, photography, engineering, and much more! If you are interested in this program, please stop by our front office and pick up a Parent/Guardian Information Sheet, and you may also contact Ms. Ebony Foster, our 21st Century Coordinator, at 515-5363.
- Sandusky Middle School will now be participating in the Super Snacks program provided by our Lynchburg City Schools Nutrition department. This program will provide an afterschool meal for **ALL** students between 3:15 - 3:45 pm every day **EXCEPT** Fridays. **ALL** students are eligible! Meals must be consumed on school grounds, so if you would like your child to receive a meal, they would need to participate in an afterschool program or be picked up by 3:45 pm. Students will receive a sandwich, vegetable, fruit, and milk. This program will begin on Tuesday, September 3. We appreciate our LCS Nutrition department for providing this opportunity for our kids!
- 8th Grade parents, 8th grade students will be attending a field trip to Rivers Edge Park for some experiential learning opportunities, exploring the Chesapeake Bay through hands on activities. Field trip forms will be sent home this week, so please have those returned as soon as possible if you would like your child to attend. We will be taking a different group of students each day, beginning this Friday, August 30 and ending on Friday, September 6th. Tomorrow, September 3, Mrs. Tucker's 2nd

period and Mrs. Wingfield's 6th period will be attending. We are excited about this opportunity and look forward to enjoying this together!

- Lynchburg City Schools has designated September as Attendance Awareness Month for all Lynchburg City Schools. Next month, every student at Sandusky Middle School will attend a truancy prevention meeting, at which time your child will bring home detailed information on state laws, LCS and SMS policies and procedures regarding truancy and tardiness and the importance of regular attendance to school. Consistent attendance is key in being successful at school, and also supports Sandusky Middle School's goals for full state accreditation. If you are concerned about your child's attendance, please reach out to Ms. Michelle Wooldridge, our attendance coordinator, at 515-5350 for support. More information will follow about next month's "Attendance Awareness Month" and the dates your child will attend their grade level meeting.

Please check today's email, our Twitter account (@Spartans_SMS), and our website for more important information on school events. Again, this is Matthew A. Mason, and SMS is pleased to serve our community!