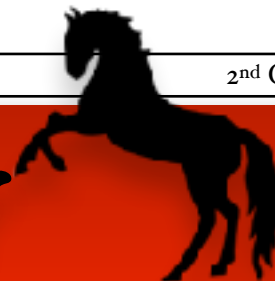


# SMS Newsletter



## School Contacts

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**Middle School Office:**

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**Absentee Line:** 509.323.1029

## School Hours

8:25am to 3:15pm

Due to safety concerns and lack of supervision, students should not be on campus before 8:00am or after school - unless they are participating in a school-related function.

## Calendar of Events

**No School- Pres. Day** Feb. 17th

**7th WSU Med. Campus** Mar. 10th

**Family Night Out** March 12, 5pm

**Spring Conferences**

Thursday, April. 2, 8am-6pm

Friday, April 3, 8am-12pm

**Spring Break** April. 6-10th

**8th Grade Trip** May 27-29th

**8th Grade Promotion** June 8th

**MS All School Field Trip** June 9th

**Last Day of School** June 10th

**“Go Colts!”**

The first half of the school year is recorded in the history book. We had many great accomplishments to be proud of. Students have worked exceptionally hard to complete various projects and activities. Our middle school athletics dominated their leagues by having near-perfect seasons in football, volleyball, and basketball.

During this second semester, we are encouraging all students to strive to be more engaged in school. Students can boost their **Academic engagement** by being active in class, completing all assignments, doing their best on tests, and being active participants in hands-on learning projects. **Social engagement** includes the participation of school activities, such as friendships with other students, involvement in clubs and activities, attending special events like dances, and school assemblies, or being in sports.



End of Semester Social

**Emotional engagement** refers to the personal relationships that students make with adults in their school community. Students will be engaged emotionally when they feel cared about, valued, listened to, and encouraged by teachers, mentors, coaches, principals, and any other school staff that they have a connection with.

Families and community members can help make a difference in student success at school by frequently checking in to see how students are doing. Start with the iconic question, “What did you learn in school today?”, and let the discussion evolve. Additionally, families can help emphasize the importance of attending school. Finally, family involvement in the education of children and youth is critical. Attend a conference, sporting event, or community activity. You can help make a difference!

Sincerely,  
Mr. Joachim, Principal

## **School Attendance**

School attendance is a vital component of a student's academic success. A simple fact is that students need to be at school to receive instruction, participate in learning activities and learn at their best capacity. Attending school does matter.

Springdale Middle School, utilizes mentor relationships to proactively help students with time management and attendance accountability. Each Monday, students meet with their mentors to establish goals for the week. They look to create **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Timely** goals. Therefore, a **SMART** goal incorporates all of these criteria to help focus student efforts and increase the chances of achieving that goal. On Friday, the mentors check-in with students for a one-on-one conference to review their goal achievement.

You can help your student meet their goals by making sure they attend school and by reviewing their academic progress on the Summit Learning platform. **U**

## How Springdale Middle School is Implementing S.E.L

Social and Emotional Learning (S.E.L) is a type of learning where children learn to regulate emotions, manage behaviors, set positive goals (academic or personal), set boundaries, and learn how to maintain positive relationships. The tools and skills learned may not only help students in their school life, but it may also help students in their personal and adult life. Springdale Middle School students are in school 7 hours (4.5 on Fridays) or more a day for 180 days a year, so parents and guardians may wonder what Springdale Middle School is doing to implement social-emotional learning in the school environment? Springdale Middle School has implemented various evidenced-based S.E.L curriculum throughout the years to ensure our students are receiving S.E.L into their school week. Additionally, Springdale Middle School has multiple staff that is on-site daily to support our students in the case of a crisis, conflict mediation, and therapy.

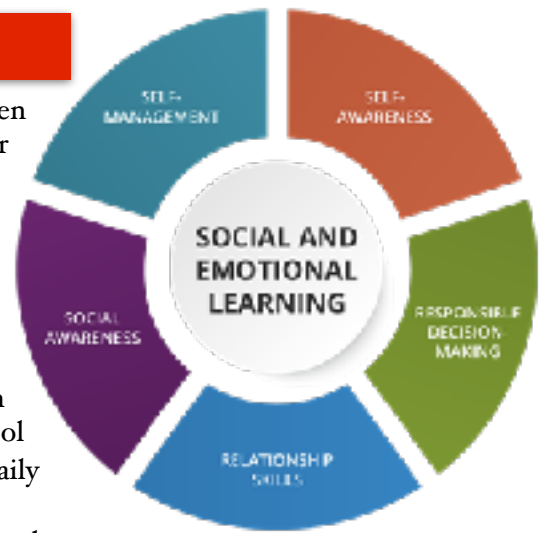
In January of 2020, 7th-grade students started with their new LifeSkills level 3 course once a week for 15 weeks. LifeSkills is a research curriculum developed by Gilbert J. Botvin. It focuses on the causes of substance abuse, drug resistance skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution, coping with anxiety, and how media influences decision. 7th-grade students have been exposed to Level one and are utilizing their past skills in this course to work on scenarios and boundary setting. Another S.E.L curriculum offered to our students is Salvaging Sisterhood. This curriculum focuses on relational aggression between girls. Typically this curriculum is taught to young girls in a small group setting, and the goal is to develop healthier relationships by educating young girls on personal safety skills, self-knowledge application, and acquiring self-knowledge and interpersonal skills. Not only does S.E.L curriculum work with emotional navigation, S.E.L can also focus on organizational skills and time management. A small group of 7th and 8th-grade students now have the opportunity to participate in Organization Skills Bootcamp. Developed by the American School Counseling Association, Organization Skills Boot Camp gears towards time management, setting academic (short and long term) goals, study skills, and note taking skills. Although Springdale Middle School offers S.E.L in small groups and classroom guidance, our school also provides individual services.

Students at our school have the opportunity to speak to various qualified individuals on campus that will help with social and emotional issues. Springdale Middle School has a school counselor who can provide short-term counseling to students, advocate for students, can refer for long term support, and assist with academic goal setting. For students seeking long-term therapy, our school provides an on-site clinical mental health therapist to identify and treat mental health issues or disorders, and if appropriate outside referrals may be made. The school has a school psychologist to assist with learning difficulties, disabilities, emotional problems, and testing. Additionally, in times of a crisis, the school has a designated support team that meets bi-weekly to discuss and navigate S.E.L issues in the school. The support team consists of the school counselor, school mental health therapist, school psychologist, student assistance specialist, school nurse, and middle school administration. This support team also plans and intervenes at a time of crisis to ensure the school is provided with the proper resources and implementing proper school procedures depending on the situation.

To ensure the best quality of education Springdale Middle School ensures students are provided with the resources needed to succeed in their life during and well after their school years. Students are provided opportunities such as small group counseling to mental health therapy. If you are interested in receiving any of these

services, please contact Jocelyne Medenwaldt at (509) 258-4717 or [jmedenwaldt@marywalker.org](mailto:jmedenwaldt@marywalker.org)

by Mrs. Medenwaldt



## Resource Room Report

We are so proud of our Middle School Special Education students. They work really hard to stay current with each assignment in their various classes. The Summit Curriculum we use in our district enables students to work at different ability levels and monitor their own progress. We have seen significant gains by using this approach to instruction. The students enjoy the many benefits of technology driven curriculum. There are many built-in tools that support learning and give the students what they need, when they need it. A big plus is helping them each prepare for the 21<sup>st</sup> century!

One of the highlights of this semester was the Middle School Social last week where most of the students had the choice of going to the social/dance or watching a movie. We are really pleased with all the effort put forth by our students! 🍷



## Does Social Media Make Us Feel Lonely

Social media is a great way to connect to people all over the world. We can see how people think. We can view cultures, art and many other things. But we've changed how we view media; we believe that the people seen in twitter and social networks are so much better than use...happier and prettier. It makes sense, we see the rich and gorgeous people having the time of their lives, and we wonder why we can't have that type of life. Now social media is not all bad; it's like coffee; you need to enjoy it in moderation; otherwise, you start bouncing all over the place and feeling sick.

According to Psychology Today, social media has infected everyone, "in the last fifty years, regardless of geographic location, gender, race, or ethnicity, rates of loneliness have doubled in the United States." We have surrounded ourselves with the idea that we are not good enough, and we use these pictures to prove it to ourselves. The reality is that the people you envy also feel the same, wondering why they are not good enough either. Again, social media is not all bad, many people can make friends and can discuss problems that they are having through online sites. SmartSocial has concluded that "One of the reasons why teenagers are on social media is so they can search for new information on people, explore new ideas, express themselves the way they want to, and connect with others all over the world."

Recently, our school had a guest speaker, Ms. Alex an apple store Genius Bar Assistant! She cautioned us in how we use social media. She said that once something is posted online, it's on there forever, even after it is deleted. She shared stories of how people have misused social media to harm and bully. We all need to be thoughtful of how we use the internet.

In conclusion, social media is great, but only in small doses. It's like a drug; if we get a fix, we think we'll feel better, but we don't. Now it is not proven that we can get addicted to social media but there have been many studies that have proven that "Although the majority of peoples' use of social media is non-problematic, there is a small percentage of users that become addicted to social networking sites and engage in excessive or compulsive use. In fact, psychologists estimate that as many as 5 to 10% of Americans meet the criteria for social media addiction today"

Next time you have the itch to go online, take a walk, and say "hi" to someone new. You might find a new friend. ♪

by Moriah, 8th-Grade



## Math Work At Home by Mrs. Moss

Two or three times a week, your student may have work from math class that I have asked him/her to finish at home. Students should spend no more than 30 minutes on this work. My expectation is that they make an attempt to solve the problems, to try something. When they have done this, I have more information I need in order to help, and it gives them specific questions to ask me instead of just saying "I don't get it." With most problems there is not just one "right" way to a solution. Any solution that is mathematically sound will be accepted and celebrated. **Any** work students do gives me an idea of their understanding and strategies. This allows me to find the best way to increase their understanding. Middle school is a challenging time, and I appreciate your support from home in encouraging your student to TRY and to ask questions. ♪



## ELA Report by Ms. Smith

One of the projects that the sixth grade English class worked on toward the end of the second quarter was poetry. Students read and wrote a variety of poems. They focused on word choice and determining the theme of the poems. We have just started reading a class novel called, I Am Malala.

The 7th grade English class read a number of short stories from the book called Flying Lessons. The final project that they did for that unit was to write a personal narrative. We recently started our next unit which is called Justices and Injustices. Students will choose an injustice in the world, gather some data about their topic and then write a paper about the injustice.

The 8th grade students just completed their final project for semester one which was an imaginative narrative. Once the narrative was done they created a short power point highlighting some key features of their story. We have just started the novel, Tuesdays With Morrie. ♪





### Girls Basketball

Our girls basketball team did exceptionally well this season! They had a wonderful coach, Jaymi Stricker, who has coached all of this year's eighth-graders since the beginning of their middle school careers. Although they did lose two of eight games, there was still much excitement from the girls! Our 2019 Girls basketball team had a bond greater than words, they played amazing together and celebrated every win and loss as a team victory. This is another team that everyone has very high hopes for in high school! 🍷

### MS Winter Sports

Mary Walker Middle School has had amazing sports seasons for the year of 2019-2020! It took a lot of hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship from our rockstar athletes as well as our amazing coaches!

*by Taylor, 8th-Grade*



### Boys Basketball

Our 2020, boys basketball team is coming to an end shortly. The boys are being coached by Heidi Smith along with Becky Gerhart assisting with JV. Our varsity has played a total of seven games, they won six and unfortunately lost one. The JV has lost three, and has taken in four victory's! The boys still have two games until their season ends however, we are all so proud and astonished with how well both teams have worked together and played together! 🍷



## Springdale Middle School Clubs

### Student Leadership Council

Advisor: Mr. Edwards

The Student Leadership Council takes care of the day to day operations for the middles school through the students perspective. Students organize field trips, socials, and other activities that are specific to the middle school. 🍷

### Four Feathers Club

Advisor: Ms. Becca

This middle school club is open to all students who are interest in learning and celebrating native heritage, culture, arts and language. Students engage in fun club activities and field trips that help build unity. 🍷

### Youth-to-Youth Club

Advisor: Mrs. Alberts

Y2Y is student-led, adult advised club that engages students and exposes them to positive decision skills that help students make healthy decisions and equip them to resist negative influences by developing communication skills. 🍷

### Yearbook Club, Advisor: Mr. Joachim, Student Advisor: Kate

Students are creating a fully colored middle school yearbook with TreeRing, an online publication company. Additionally, this class helps create the quarterly newsletter. 🍷