

SPMS New Parent Orientation

WELCOME TO SWITZERLAND POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL!

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# SWITZERLAND POINT MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER STUDENT ORGANIZATION

#### Who Are We?

- The Switzerland Point Middle School Parent Teacher Student
  Organization is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enhance
  the learning and work experience of the students and staff at SPMS.
- Our membership includes teachers, administration, parents and students. A family membership includes your entire family!

#### What We Do

- Student Initiatives
  - Neon Bash Fall Dance for students
  - Raider Store Rewards store students who earn virtual bucks for academic and behavioral performance
  - Grade Level Funding
     – assistance with funding various grade level intitiatives
  - Character Counts Rewards rewards for students recognized as demonstrating our 6 pillars of character
  - Partnering with Student Council to partner with the student body so they have a voice and give funding towards student driven ideas

#### What We Do

- Staff Initiatives
  - Classroom grants teacher members are eligible for up to \$ 100 in a classroom grant for purchasing items that enhance their classroom
  - Staff Luncheons & Breakfast Several times a year a meal is served to our amazing staff at Swiss Point
  - Staff Appreciation Once a month the PTSO treats our staff to a special treat
  - Annual donation to the school for technology or other needs

#### How We Pay for Those Initiatives

- Membership!!!! this is our biggest fundraiser. By simply joining PTSO, families help us reach our goals
- Spirit Wear the PTSO sells SPMS spirit wear every fall
- Fall/Spring FUNdraisers the PTSO sells a variety of fun items including Nothing Bundt Cakes, Poppin Box (local popcorn co) and Crumbl Cookie
- Business Partners our area businesses help SPMS through our Partners in Education program
- Corporate Donation Matches, Box Tops, private donations

#### How Do I Join?

- A family membership is \$ 25 for the school year. One family membership includes parents and any sibling Swiss Point students
- The membership form can be found at <u>www.swisspointptso.com</u>

#### If I Join, Do I Have to Volunteer?

No, nope, not at all.

The PTSO would love your help if you would like to volunteer but there is absolutely no obligation to volunteer. At the middle school level, there are a lot less hands on activities for parents. While we occasionally need parent volunteers there is no pressure to volunteer. We understand everyone is busy balancing work, children and everything else.

#### Wait, I Would Like to Volunteer!

- That is great, we always welcome help. Opportunities to volunteer include:
  - Raider Store Student reward store at school, every other Friday during lunches
  - Neon Bash of dances we need parents to help run concession, photo booths, etc.
  - Staff Appreciation help with setting up or picking up food, etc.
  - Spirit wear help with selling spirit wear at school events
  - Board positions we have multiple open positions, please contact

# Follow SPMS PTSO

- Facebook Swiss Point PTSO
- Instagram <u>SPMSPTSO</u>
- Questions? Contact <a href="mailto:spmsptso@hotmail.com">spmsptso@hotmail.com</a>

# Switzerland Point Middle School Home of the Raiders

- Established in 1991
- Student Population: 1438
- School Colors: Silver, Black, & Calypso
- Feeder Elementary Schools: Cunningham Creek, Hickory Creek, and Timberlin Creek
- Feeder High School: Bartram Trail High School, Beachside High School
- Mission: Switzerland Point Middle School strives to empower all students with a passion and a curiosity for learning as well as empathy for others. Each student's strengths, talents, and creative abilities will be recognized and nurtured.
- Motto: Raiders are Respectful, Responsible and Safe.



# The Raider Population

- Total number of students=1438
- By class:
  - 6<sup>th</sup>: 473
  - 7<sup>th</sup>: 481
  - 8<sup>th:</sup> 484

Total number of teachers ~85



# Switzerland Point Administration



Linda Carnall Principal



Alexandra Pillay Assistant Principal



Sarah Wiggins Assistant Principal

# What Every Raider Family Needs to Know!



There are plenty of opportunities to Volunteer!

- Proctoring
- PTSO Events
- Field Trips and Chaperoning
- Band and Athletic events



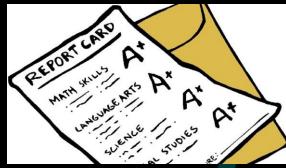
# How do I sign up to Volunteer?

- If you have never volunteered in St. Johns County School District before you must complete the form: <a href="http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer">http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/volunteer</a>
- You cannot volunteer or even attend a parent conference until your form is cleared in the system. You can check your school access status by contacting Ms. McEnerney at <a href="mailto:Stacey.Mcenerney@stjohns.k12.fl.us">Stacey.Mcenerney@stjohns.k12.fl.us</a>



#### Home Access Center

You can use the Home Access Center (HAC) to look at your student's:



**Grades-Updated Weekly** 



Discipline



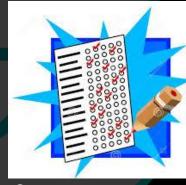
Attendance



Class Schedule



Classwork



**Test Scores** 

- If you are a returning SJCSD student and need your HAC password please contact Ms. Corte at 547.8627.
- New students will receive their HAC passwords shortly after registration.
- For more information see https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/hac/

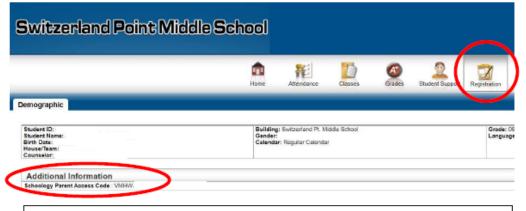
# Schoology

- Parents will have their own login
- Returning SJCSD students' login does not change
- New students will receive their pw the first week of school
- One place for all assignments and resources
- Use the Calendar feature for due dates and to stay organized (HAC should still be used for viewing course grades)
- Click on the pictures below to use the resources for assistance:

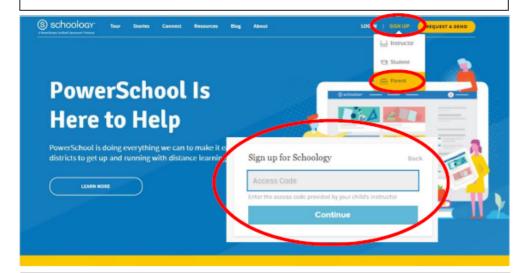




How to Make a Schoology Parent/Guardian Account



To create your parent account for Schoology you will need your Schoology Parent Access Code. You can find this information in your HAC (Home Access Center) account.



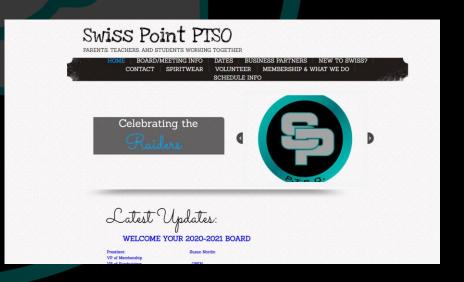
After you have your Schoology Parent Access Code, you will go to Schoology.com and sign-up for a parent account. When you click on parent you will be asked for the Access Code.

Click continue and enter your personal information.

# Ways to Stay Informed!

- Switzerland Point Middle School Webpage
- The Raider Rap Smore Electronic Newsletter
- School Messenger Email and Text Alerts
- PTSO Website
- Click on the pictures below to go to those resources:





#### School Calendar and Hours

- First Day of School for Students: August 10
- Last Day of School for Students: May 24
- Warning Bell: 7:25
- Homeroom Begins at 7:30 (A student is tardy if they arrive to 1<sup>st</sup> period later then 7:30)
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade lunch: 10:00-10:30, 9:33-10:03 W
- 7<sup>th</sup> grade lunch: 10:50-11:20, 10:14-10:44 W
- 6<sup>th</sup> grade lunch: 11:40-12:10, 10:55-11:20 W
- School Ends at 1:50 PM M/T/TH/F, 12:50 PM on W
- \*\*\* Hallway Transitions: 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be released first. One minute later 7/8 Grade students will be released.

#### Attendance Procedures

- A Note is required if your student is:
  - Tardy
  - Needs to be picked up early
  - Returns from being absent
- Notes must contain the student's full legal name.
- Notes need to be turned in to Ms. Corte
   (Jennifer.Corte@stjohns.k12.fl.us) in the guidance office or by filling out the absence form on the school website. Notes must be turned in within 48 hours of returning to school from the absence.



# Early Check out

• Complete the form on our website to request early checkout. It is located on the bottom left (side bar) of the <u>website</u>. The form needs to be completed by 6 AM the day you are requesting early checkout. After the 6 AM cut off, please send your child in with a note to the front office like normal. Please do not request early checkout more than 2 days in advance. A pass will be sent to them to show their teacher at the time of check out.

# Early Check Out

- Students will only be released to the parent or guardian, or the Emergency Contact listed in eSchool.
- A current Driver's License or state id must be presented in the front office at that time.
- No student may be signed out after 1:35 PM every day except Wednesday. The latest early check out on Wednesday is 12:35 PM.
- Students who check out during the school day due to illness are not eligible to return to school that evening to participate in activities or be a member of the audience.

#### Attendance: Sick

#### Sick

- If your student is sick do not call the front office
- Check Schoology for missed work and check with teachers either by email or Schoology message.
- Students should bring in a note when they return and give it to Ms. Schwall in the guidance office.



#### Medical Information



- Medical orders must be completed each school year.
  - All medications must be properly labeled in the original containers.
  - The clinic will be open to accept medication and authorizations the following dates and times:
    - July 31 and August 1 from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
    - August 8 from 8:00-2:00
    - August 9 from 8 AM-12:00 PM
  - Medication Authorization and Medical forms can be found here: https://www-raider.stjohns.k12.fl.us/clinic/
  - Nurse Kelly can be reached at 547-8628

#### Emergency Notification and Police Presence

- What to do in case of an Emergency:
  - You will be notified through the School-Wide Emergency Automated Phone System and by Email.
  - Pay attention to the message and follow the instruction.
  - Emergency numbers are pulled from your student's Eschool information.
     Make sure you update this information each year.
  - There is a full time St. Johns County Deputy assigned to the school.

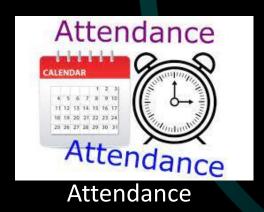


#### Student Code of Conduct

- Click here to access the <u>Student Code of Conduct</u>
- You will find information regarding:



SJCSD Guiding Principles





Student Rights and Responsibilities





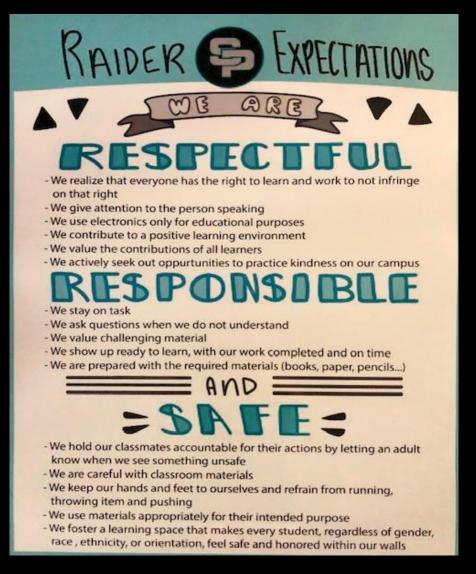
#### **Character Counts**

- SPMS recognizes students monthly who are displaying the pillars of character.
   Students are nominated for this recognition by their teachers.
- SPMS students will have the opportunity to participate in CC! Bingo card monthly for Raider bucks and prizes. More details to come!
- Each grade level will compete for earning the most CC!/Kindness Raider Bucks each quarter to earn a class prize. Details to come!



# PBIS = Positive Behavior and Interventions Support

A behavior management program that teaches students clear behavior expectations in all school settings AND rewards students for meeting these expectations with Raider Bucks.



#### Why PBIS? Because it...

- ✓ Teaches positive behaviors.
- ✓ Recognizes and rewards students for meeting expectations.
- ✓ Defines clear expectations and clear consequences.
- ✓ Is school-wide and consistent.
- ✓ Focuses on the positive and prevents future issues.
- ✓ Includes an organized system of disciplinary actions.



# PBIS = Positive Behavior and Interventions

#### Support



- Students can earn a "raider buck" anytime they show they are Respectful, Responsible, and Safe.
   "Raider Bucks" are virtual bucks given and stored in the PBIS system. Those "bucks" can be used to buy ice cream on selected Fridays or buy treats at our Raider Store on selected Fridays.
- Students can spend Raider Bucks on rewards including:
  - items in the Raider Store
  - ice cream
  - rewards in teacher Raider Stores
  - Raider Buck Raffles at the end of the semester

# PBIS = Positive Behavior and Interventions

#### Support

- DEMERITS:
- Demerits may be issued for any behavior that does not follow our school rules or code of conduct.
- The use of demerits is a way to give students opportunities to learn appropriate behavior.
- At the beginning of every year, students are informed of school expectations. If a behavior does not meet these expectations or follow the student code of conduct, they will be issued a demerit.
- Multiple demerits can warrant lunch detention, ISS, or OSS (out of school suspension).
- Demerits are a way to show grace to students as we teach the behavior expectations.

# SPMS Guidance Department



Ms. Tippins 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



Ms. Patterson <sup>7th</sup> Grade



Ms. Parks
8th Grade

- When can I see my counselor?
  - Before or after school
  - During lunch
  - Per teacher approval during class
  - By appointment or email

# **Grading Scales**

- A = 100-90
- B= 89-80



- Students must earn at least a 60% for each semester to receive credit.
- Each class semester is worth .5 credit and students receive grades for each semester, except for yearlong EOC courses (Civics, Algebra 1, Geometry, and Biology)
- SJCSD policy maintains that each semester is calculated individually, unless, a student fails one semester and passes the other. Then the semesters are averaged together. If that average brings the student to a passing grade they will receive full credit for the class

#### Promotion Requirements

- Students will take and must pass, with a grade of 60% or higher, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and PE every year.
- During 8<sup>th</sup> grade year students will take Civics which includes an End of Course state exam that will be 30% of the final grade.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students receive a career and education planning component in their social studies class.
- If students do not pass a class they will have the option of retaking that class during the summer through a virtual learning provider.



# What if my child is struggling with a class?

- Reach out to the teacher for specific information.
- Check HAC/Schoology regularly to ensure they are doing the homework/formative work.
- If they are struggling with summative assessments, check to make sure they are doing the remediation and retake assessments.
- Summative assessments make up 70% of students' grades and formative assessments are 30%. SJCSD policy states that if a student earns less than an 85% on a summative assessment they have the option to retake.
- Students can earn up to an 85% on a retake and students will receive the higher score of the original and retake summative assessment.

#### Cafeteria Information



- Lunch procedures will be explained the first week of school
- You can find lunch information on our website here:



 To deposit money into your student's lunch account you will use PayPams. Click here to see the information

# Transportation

- Transportation information will be available in HAC July 31.
- For questions about bus routes and transportation you can call 904.547.7810
- A transportation representative will be available at the district open house on August 9.



# Parent Drop Off and Pick UP

- While waiting to pick up or drop off your student please be mindful of not blocking entrances to local neighborhoods. We want everyone to be safe while traveling and waiting.
- We ask that you please do not go into the local neighborhoods that you do not live in to pick up your students. Some surrounding neighborhoods have been in discussion about hiring SJCSO to patrol the neighborhoods for this activity.

#### Parent Drop-off



- You may be directed by the YRO to pull forward or to pull around the loop.
- Either way we ask that you pull all the way forward to the cone/sign so we may keep the flow of traffic moving.
- If you pull around the loop we ask your students exit on the right and move into the grass at the right.
- In the morning, there will be no parking in the roundabout. This is for dropoff and thru traffic only.
- There will be no passing of cards in the morning.

#### Parent Pick UP

- Afternoon pick up: Please be sure to pull all the way forward and have your student come to you so we may keep the flow of traffic moving.
- After your student is in the car you may go left around the loop to exit the parking lot.

# Who does a Parent Contact for help?

- For Student Specific Issues:
  - Teachers (Email) \*\*\*this should be your first point of contact
  - School Counselor
  - Dean
  - Administration

(See the SPMS website for contact information)

- To Volunteer:
  - PTSO Board Members

#### Student Council

- Your student can make a difference at SPMS through student council!
- 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students can run to be class representatives
  - This gives students experience so that they can be more informed as 8<sup>th</sup> grade officers
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students can run for officer positions
- Meetings will be once a month after school for all members and once a week during lunch for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.
  - After school meetings require that each student has a way to get home at 3:00
- Students new to SPMS can apply!
- Students need 2 teacher recommendations
  - Current year teachers or previous year teachers
  - o If they teach somewhere else, they can email a recommendation to Ms. Clausen
- Students do not need prior experience!
- There will be an <u>interest meeting</u> on Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-2:30 in Ms. Clausen's room (Portable 7). For more information reach out to Ms. Clausen (Catherine.clausen@stjohns.k12.fl.us)



#### HELPFUL HINTS FROM THE 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TEAM

- TRUST that teachers want your 6<sup>th</sup> grader to succeed. We are on the same team. Your child has been equipped to complete any assigned work. Communicate and work with the teachers.
- CHECK the Schoology Calendar daily for homework assignments, quizzes, etc. Check HAC regularly for grades. Grades are updated every two weeks on HAC.
- TRAIN your 6<sup>th</sup> grader to complete schoolwork as soon as possible-BEFORE play time, video games, and sports. Check to make sure they really did all of it. Use Schoology to help you verify.
- Set a ROUTINE where your 6<sup>th</sup> grader packs all their books, homework, and lunch before bed.
- A 6<sup>th</sup> grader requires SLEEP. Unfortunately, we know they love to play video games or chat on the phone well after bedtime. Make sure to set a routine that allows them to get the necessary rest.
- Your 6<sup>th</sup> grader may fail, make mistakes and poor choices. Those poor choices may have consequences. We all know we learn best from our mistakes; we can use these as learning opportunities.