

Principal's Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Panther Families:

Thank you for a wonderful Open House/Meet the Teacher event. It was so nice to see all of our families on campus. I hope you were able to connect with your child's teachers, see the classrooms, and experience first-hand what it's like to travel from class to class in just three minutes!

This week we finished our first round of FAST testing, and we are very proud of our overall results. In both ELA and Math, 60% of our students met grade-level proficiency on the first progress monitoring assessment. Congratulations to our students!

Our boys' and girls' tennis and girls' volleyball teams were also successful this week in their first matches of the season against McIntosh Middle School. The lady Panthers volleyball team won both matches. We encourage all to join us on Monday when our teams take on Laurel Nokomis School. Remember, parents should accompany our students to the games and we do not allow any food or drink in the gym.

Lastly, our PBIS committee held another Panther Paw give away during lunches on Friday. This week it was for three gift cards at each grade level for Starbucks, Target, and Tijuana Flats. We hope your student was a winner!

Have a wonderful weekend,
Mrs. Nzeza

IMPORTANT DATES

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

9/11 - Tennis/Volleyball @ SMS

9/13 - Tennis/Volleyball @ Heron Creek

9/15 - Caps for Cancer Awareness!! See flier below and participate!!

9/18 - Tennis/Volleyball @ Woodland

9/20 - Tennis/Volleyball @ SMS

9/27 - Tennis/Volleyball @ Brookside
9/29 - Go Gold Day - See information below
10/2 - Tennis/Volleyball @ SMS
10/4 - Tennis/Volleyball @ Booker
10/5 - PTSO Meeting - 9:30 AM in the Media Center
10/6 - Picture Day
10/13 - SAC Meeting 8:15 AM in the Art room
10/16 - Professional Day - No School

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND CAMPUS?

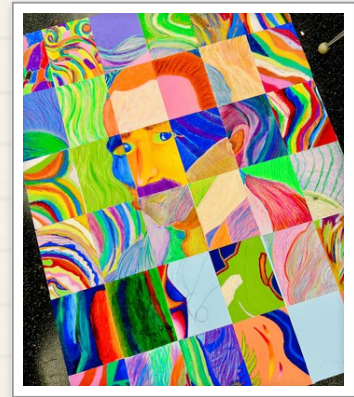
Artwork and Design

Students in Dr. Tracey's classes started the year off learning about logo design and branding. Each student created a unique logo for their respective class period. Students voted on which logo would be their period's official logo for the year. Enjoy this year's winners!

2023-24 SMS ART LOGO DESIGN WINNERS



Dr. Tracey's students have also been learning about Vincent Van Gogh and the grid system. They have been working hard as a whole class to create colorful enlargements of some of his most well-known paintings. Enjoy these snapshots of the process, so far.



PTSO NEWS

ATTENTION 8TH GRADE PARENTS:

We need your help! Please consider being part of our 8th Grade Events Planning Committee. If you are interested in helping our 8th graders have a wonderful end of school year packed full of fun and memorable events, please help us in getting the planning started. Here is a google form link for anyone would like to be on the committee:

<https://forms.gle/4wgywdAHWwzup7adA>

Thank you for your consideration!!

NEED SPIRIT WEAR?

Please see the flier below for some awesome new SMS Spirit Wear! You can use the QR code or go to the PTSO Website at <http://www.smsptso.com> to purchase.

SMS SPIRIT WEAR

WOMEN'S CROPPED
SWEATSHIRT



\$35

UNISEX HOODED
SWEATSHIRT



\$40

UNISEX HOODED
SWEATSHIRT

\$40



UNISEX HOODED
ZIP-UP SWEATSHIRT

\$45



Pre-order yours today!

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____ 1st Pd./Advisory Teacher _____

☐ Cropped Sweatshirt (\$35) ☐ Black Hoodie (\$40) ☐ Gray Hoodie (\$40) ☐ Black Zip-Up (\$45)

Size: ☐ XS ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L
(Black Hoodie Only)

WAYS TO PAY



*We also accept cash and checks.
Please make checks payable to SMS PTSO

Forms may be turned into the front office or emailed to ptsopathers@gmail.com.
For more info visit www.smsptso.com

EQUITY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

•The Sarasota County School Board prohibits discrimination in its educational programs, services or activities, or employment conditions or practices on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnic or national origin, genetic information, marital status, qualified disability defined under the ADAAA, or on the basis of the use of a language other than English, except as provided by law.

•Any person who believes he or she has experienced any such prohibited discrimination may file a complaint with the district Equity Coordinator Al Harayda by calling (941) 927-9000, ext. 31217.

- Parents/legal guardians of student claimants and respondents shall be notified within one school day of claims alleging a violation of the Policy Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment, except in limited circumstances when the Title IX Officer (or designee) determines that such notification is not in the best interest or impairs the safety of the claimant involved, in which case only the parents/legal guardians of the respondent will be notified.

- In applicable cases, notification to the parents/legal guardians may be made by telephone, writing, or personal conference. All parents/legal guardians of student claimants and respondents who have received notification may participate at each stage of both informal and formal investigation and resolution procedures. The frequency of notification and follow-up reports to parents/legal guardians will be dependent on the seriousness of the complaint. All notifications shall be consistent with student privacy rights under the applicable provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).

- <https://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/Page/2613>

WELCOME TO MORE NEW STAFF

Please join us in welcoming a few new members to Sarasota Middle School.



JENNIFER HARPER.

Hi! I'm Jennifer Harper. I have lived in Sarasota since I was a toddler. I have a husband Mike and two young daughters Braelyn and Brianna. We also have a crazy dog named Wally and a Sulcata tortoise named Hercules that roams free. I look forward to joining the SMS team as the new attendance secretary!



MAX SOLOW

Mr. Solow is the newest member to our Social Studies department! He will be teaching 7th and 8th grade Social Studies on the North team. Max holds a Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Studies/Communication from Florida Gulf Coast University. He loves golf, has a great work ethic, and is a positive addition to our SMS team!

GO GOLD FOR CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS

Don't forget! We are currently participating in a month-long fundraiser to help raise money for the Benjamin Gilkey Fund. Benjamin was a student at Southside Elementary and his brother was a student at Sarasota Middle for 6th-8th grade. This is such a worthy cause and we ask that you consider a donation of any kind - there are many fun ways (see below). Also, please encourage and support your child in dressing in all yellow or gold for Go Gold Day on Friday, September 29th.

Start here... End here!



WHEN:

Sept. 5th
Sept. 29th

**Be the CHANGE
for Cancer**



WHERE:

**Donate on your team--
let's see which team can donate the most!**

All proceeds will benefit The Benjamin Gilkey Fund for Innovative Cancer Research

Every little bit helps!



...pennies, dollars or anything in between,
all donations are appreciated!





Caps for Cancer Awareness



In conjunction with Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

**Donate \$1.00 and wear your
favorite hat/baseball cap to
SMS Friday, September 15th, 2023**



Wear your favorite
hat in support of
Childhood Cancer
Awareness!
\$1.00 DONATION



**Bring your donation to Mrs. West (Room 824)
or Mrs. Sams (Room 823)
before school from 8:30-9:00am, Wednesday,
Sept. 6th through Friday Sept. 15th.
You will be given a wristband that you must
wear on Friday in order to wear your hat!**

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Have questions? Please call our front office at 941-364-6464 and ask for:

Mrs. Gager – Registrar (A-L)

Mrs. Wiegand – Registrar (M-A)

Dr. Hilston – ESE Liaison

Mrs. Smith – Gifted Liaison

Mrs. Martin – Front Desk Secretary

Mrs. Viscusi – Attendance Secretary

Mrs. Konecny – Principal's Assistant

Mrs. Nzeza – Principal

Mrs. Lyon – Assistant Principal (A-L)

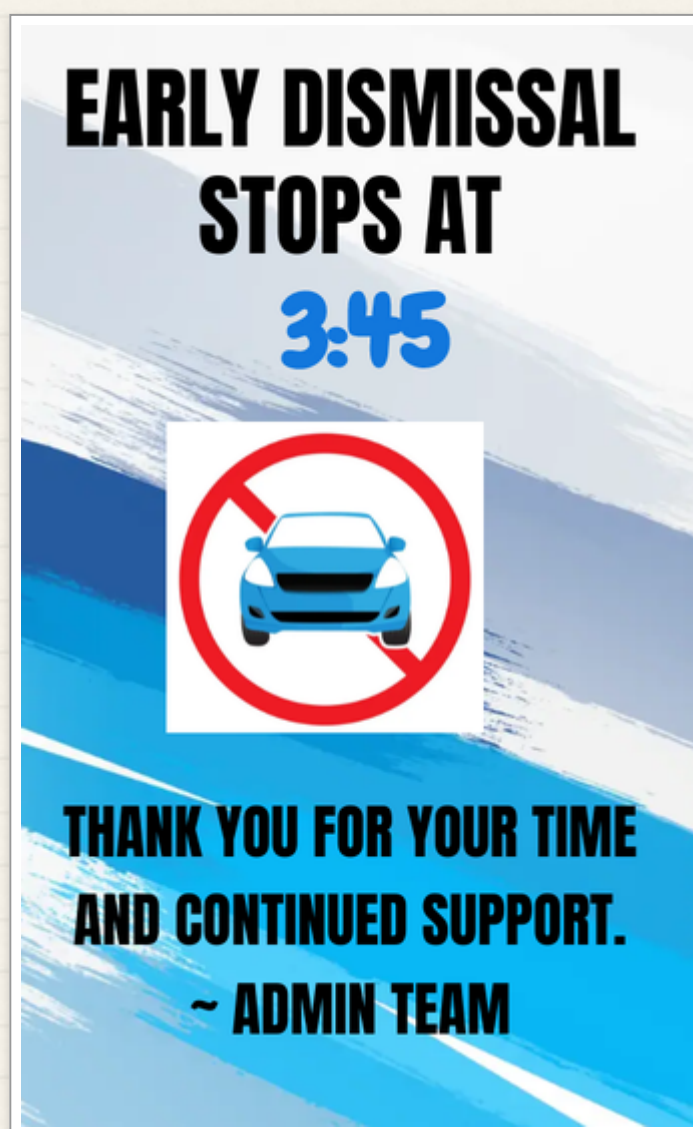
Mr. Carpenter – Assistant Principal (M-Z)

Ms. Lamastra – School Resource Officer

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Morning Drop Off & Parking

Parents, thank you for remembering that our students should not be dropped off prior to 8:30 AM as there is no supervision until that time. Please also remember that our staff parking is in the first two full rows of the car-line lot. Please do not park in those spaces. Thank you for your consideration!



Basketball_Schedule.pdf

[Download](#)

62.5 KB



Intramural_Schedule_2023-2024.pdf

[Download](#)

102.7 KB



ABOUT US



Facebook



@smspanthers



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941-361-6464



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