

Principal's Newsletter

December 16, 2023 🎄



Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

Our students completed FAST testing and district mid terms this week. Testing results are shown at right. We are pleased to see that in most areas we grew despite significant changes to the scoring after retrofitting by the state from FSA to FAST. We are still analyzing how the changes may have affected our students overall and will be updating our school improvement plans and goals in January to reflect these changes. Please note that 8th grade scores include only Pre-Algebra students. Our Algebra and Geometry scores are being finalized and are not included. Please also remember that these numbers indicate the percentage of students who scored a level 3 or above on end-of-year standards.

ELA	Level 3 and Above	
	PM1	PM2
6 th Grade	71%	72%
7 th Grade	61%	56%
8 th Grade	53%	62%
Math	Level 3 and Above	
	PM1	PM2
6 th Grade	45%	62%
7 th Grade	69%	75%
8 th Grade	2%	6%

We also had some wonderful performance this week from our Chorus students, and next week our orchestra performs. We also celebrated our school's Teacher of the Year, social studies teacher Karla Sams, at the District Teacher of the Year celebration. You can see pictures of this below.

As we look forward to January 2024, we hope to continue to partner with our families even more. We hope to start a robust Dad's group on campus and grow our PTSO and SAC membership significantly. We hope you will consider joining us to create a more positive culture throughout our school.

Best,
Mrs. Nzeza

Important Dates

Please mark your calendars

12/19 - Orchestra Concert
12/20 - Student Council PJ Day! See flier below
12/22 - Professional Day (No School for students)
12/25 - 1/5 – Winter Break (School Closed)
1/8 – Classes Resume
1/10 - Basketball @ SMS
1/12 - SAC Meeting
1/17 - Basketball @ Oak Park
1/17 - PSAT for 8th Grade Registration DUE - see flier attached
1/21 - SPIRIT Night at Sky Zone - See flier attached
1/23 - SPIN Night and Book Fair
1/24 - MOSI STEM Club begins - See information below



What's Happening around Campus?

Mrs. Sams Honored at TOY Celebration

Sarasota County Schools Teachers of the Year were celebrated at the Venice Community Center on Wednesday of this week. We were so pleased to honor social studies teacher Karla Sams at the event. Equally exciting and impressive is that Mrs. Sams was ALSO named this year's Florida Literacy Teacher of the Year! She will be recognized for that accolade in Orlando in January. We, and her students, are so proud of Mrs. Sams!





STEM MOSI After School Club Starting

Interested in STEM? Join the Sarasota STEM Voyager Club sponsored by MOSI Tampa! The club is open to any 6th, 7th, or 8th grade SMS student and open for only 30 students. Please see Mrs. Simonson in room 623 for forms and see the flier with more details attached.

SARASOTA STEM VOYAGER CLUB

Igniting Middle School Minds with MOSI in Motion

WHAT IS IT?

Hold on to your lab coats, folks! Sarasota Middle School is teaming up with the **Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa** to bring you the STEM Voyager Club! Buckle up and get ready for the **MOSI in Motion Mobile Science Lab** to roll right into your school! With tailor-made two-hour sessions, you'll be diving headfirst into STEM with all the excitement of a field trip, right in your own backyard!

WHAT WILL CLUB MEMBERS DO?

Get your hands dirty and your brain buzzing with MOSI's Science and Technology Educators, who will guide you through exciting labs and interactive activities!

WHAT TOPICS WILL BE EXPLORED?

- Solar System
- Stars
- Earth/Moon Relationships
- Astronomy
- Weather

- Earth's Interior
- Plate Tectonics
- Earthquakes and Volcanoes
- Cell Theory
- Characteristics of Living Things
- Human Body Systems

- Heredity
- Infectious Agents
- Ecosystems
- Fossils
- Energy and Life
- Motion
- Land Formations

- Light Energy
- Thermal Energy
- Transforming Energy
- Chemical Changes
- Properties of Matter
- Structure of Matter

WHEN WILL THE CLUB MEET?

- Our **first meeting will be January 24th**
- Meetings will be **Wednesdays after school for 2 hours every other week**
- A calendar of meeting dates will be provided to members and posted on the school website
- Club members will also participate in a field trip to MOSI

WHO CAN JOIN?

Students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades who are enrolled at Sarasota Middle can join the club

Embracing the power of STEM nurtures creativity, inspires lifelong learning, and equips students with the skills needed to thrive in the 21st century.

Contact
Mrs. Simonson
in room
623 for
sign up forms

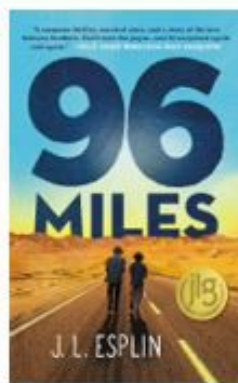
Algebra I Boot Camp Success

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of this week Mrs. Overton spearheaded the Algebra Midterm Bootcamp. We had 3 blockbuster days of about 70 plus students preparing for their midterm exam in the mornings. Ms. Hitt, Mr. Winstead and Mrs. Winstead helped to facilitate the bootcamp and even our Geometry NJHS students volunteered to assist the algebra students.



SMS Book Club Books Released

Please see the flier below for the books our SMS Book Club will be reading in the new year. Book Club is held in the Media Center before school. See you there!



SMS Book Club Titles for 2024



January 11: **96 Miles** by J.L. Esplin

February 1: **Hush-A-Bye** by Jody Lee Mott

March 7: **Invisible** by C. Diaz Gonzalez & G. Epstein

April 4: **Treasure Tracks** by S.A. Rodriguez

May 2: **Wayward Creatures** by Dayna Lorentz



Joyful Voices Out and About

It's concert season and the SMS Joyful Voices Choir have been very very busy! The Honor Choir Students were invited to perform last week with the Riverview High School at their annual Renaissance Concert and Feaste. It was a festive affair, which joyfully ushered in the holiday season!

On Thursday, December 14th over 100 choir students took to the stage for their spectacular winter concert! Guests were treated to a variety of winter, classical, Broadway and holiday songs from the Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced and Honor Choir students. The students not only sang but danced as well! The evening ended with fun audience participation as everyone used their cell phone flashlight to illuminate the concert hall to celebrate the season!

Ms Sawa is very proud of her students hard work and dedication to putting on their best performances!





Pajama Day Finally Here

We will have a PJ Day on Wednesday 12/20 sponsored by our Student Council! Student Council is a club run by social studies teacher, Mrs. Tackett. If your child is interested in joining Student Council, please tell them to see Mrs. Tackett in her classroom. Students meet on Friday mornings. Enjoy PJ day Wednesday, 12/20!

JUST ROLL OUT OF BED
YOUR OUTFIT IS ALREADY PICKED OUT



PAJAMA DAY 12/20/23

PSAT 8.9 Saturday, March 23, 2024 -- Register by Wed Jan 17, 2024.pdf

[Download](#)

202.0 KB

Sarasota Middle School Spirit Night Flyer with QR Code 1-21-24.pdf

[Download](#)

2.6 MB



Smore

Beautiful class updates in a snap



