

Summit Speaks

A Newsletter for Parents



From the Principal

Dear Summit Parent/Guardian,

Summit Middle School is implementing an initiative called Sources of Strength.

The Sources of Strength mission is to spread Hope, Help, and Strength to every corner of our community. Sources of Strength is a best practice youth suicide prevention project designed to harness the power of peer social networks to change unhealthy norms and culture—ultimately preventing suicide, bullying, and substance abuse. The mission of Sources of Strength is to prevent suicide by increasing help seeking behaviors and promoting connections between peers and caring adults.

In the initial phase of implementation, we need to survey Summit students about their experiences, connectedness to school, friends, and willingness to talk to a trusted adult. We plan to administer the survey to all students during their Team/Tech time on Monday, November 5. If you do not want your child to participate in the survey, please contact your child’s school counselor no later than Friday, November 2.

Jeff Faber (Student Last Name A-K) jfaber@sacs.k12.in.us
Julia Miller (Student Last Name L-Z) jmiller@sacs.k12.in.us

Thank you for your support in this worthwhile initiative. We believe this program will be a great asset to our school!

Dr. Josh St. John, Principal
Summit Middle School

During the November 14 eLearning Flex Day all students will be able to access assignments by 7:25 AM, and teachers will be available through Canvas from noon to 2:55 PM. Please know the school building will be open with instructional assistants to supervise students in the Media Center. Busses will run for students/parents who decide that is the best option for their family. Foodservice will provide breakfast and lunch as usual. Students who do not complete and submit eLearning assignments from a Flex Day will be required to come to school on the next Flex Day.



The remaining eLearning Flex Days are:
Wednesday, November 14, 2018
Friday, March 15, 2019

Special points of interest:

- Nov. 14—Flex Day
- Nov. 21—No School
- Nov. 22-23 Thanks-giving Holiday
- Dec. 5 Spelling Bee 3:15 Cafe
- Dec. 10— Band Concert 7:00 PM
- Dec. 12— Choir Concert 7:00 PM
- Dec. 17— Winter Dance 6-8:00PM
- Dec. 21—End of Semester
- Dec. 24— Winter Break Begins
- Jan. 8— School Resumes for Students
- Jan. 16—8th Grade Parent Night at HHS

Summit’s Fundraiser:

Initial results suggest the fundraiser was a huge success! Please know fund-raiser product to be delivered by students is to be picked-up on Monday, November 19th between 2:45-6:00 PM.

Summit Speaks

November Events

(H) Designates Home Game

- 7— End of 2nd 6 Weeks/T1
- 8— BB Jamboree (Boys & Girls) vs Woodside 5:00 PM
- 10— IBA Honor Band
- 11— IBA Honor Band
- 13— BB Boys @ Blackhawk 5:30 PM
- 13— BB Girls (H) Blackhawk Christian 5:00
- 14— eLearning FLEX DAY
- 15— Boys BB @ N. Haven 5:00 PM
- 15— Girls BB (H) N. Haven 5:00 PM
- 19— Boys BB (H) Norwell 5:00 PM
- 19— Girls BB @ Norwell 5:00 PM
- 21— No School
- 22— No School Thanksgiving Holiday
- 23— No School Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26— Boys BB @ Bellmont 5:00 PM
- 26— Girls BB (H) Bellmont 5:00 PM
- 27— Boys BB (H) Harding 5:00 PM
- 27— Girls BB @ Harding 5:00 PM
- 29— Boys BB @ St. Charles 5:00 PM
- 29— Girls BB (H) St. Charles 5:00 PM



December Events

- 3— Girls BB @ Indian Springs 5:00 PM
- 5 — Spelling Bee 3:15 PM CAFE
- 6— Boys BB @ St. Eliz. 5:00 PM
- 6— Girls BB (H) St. Eliz. 5:00 PM
- 8— Boys BB Tournament @ Lakeview 10 AM
- 10— Band Concert 7:00 PM
- 11— Boys BB (H) Carroll 5:00 PM
- 11— Girls BB @ Carroll 5:00 PM
- 12— Choir Concert 7:00 PM (CAFÉ)
- 13— Boys BB (H) Maple Creek M.S. 5:00 PM
- 13— Girls BB @ Maple Creek M.S. 5:00 PM
- 17— Winter Dance 6-8:00 PM
- 18 — Musical Auditions (Choir Room) 3:00 PM
- 19 — Musical Auditions (Choir Room) 3:00 PM
- 18— Boys BB @ Edgewood 5:00 PM
- 21— End of 2nd Nine Weeks
- 21— End of 1st Semester

Reporting Absences and Early Dismissals



Please review the student handbook page 7-9 under attendance policy. **Summit Middle School requires parents/guardians to call the attendance line whenever their son/daughter is absent from school. This includes when a student will be late to school due to an appointment.** This policy is in place to ensure the safety of our students. Summit's attendance

secretary is required to make a phone call to all parents who have not reported their child's absence. Also, if your child has an early dismissal the policy is to send in a note with your student the morning of the appointment. The student is issued an early dismissal pass and is on the attendance list for the day. This alerts teachers as to why a particular student may not be in class.

Your cooperation in both of these instances would be greatly appreciated. It is very time consuming and causes interruptions to the classroom when these procedures are not followed.

Counselors Corner

For advisory this month, all Falcons will be discussing our school-wide theme of how to be Resilient Problem Solvers. We will be “Looking into the Future” as we explore into future career options and pathways. Students will access Indiana Career Explorer to further their college and career interest research. Sixth grade students will focus primarily on exploring their career interests. Seventh grade students will aim to learn more about career exploration and personal skill sets. Eighth grade students will learn more about career awareness and readiness, including steps towards preparing for high school.



* This month, students are asked to consider, “What habits are you practicing to get you ready for your future goals?”. To visually represent Summit staff members’ career paths, history on their college and career experiences along with photos from their collegiate years will be posted on the advisory bulletin board across from the main office this month. Finally, all students and staff will be invited to join in a “College Gear Day” on Friday, November 16th. Please wear your favorite college colors, t-shirt or jersey to represent your school of choice on Friday, November 16th.

Digital Citizenship

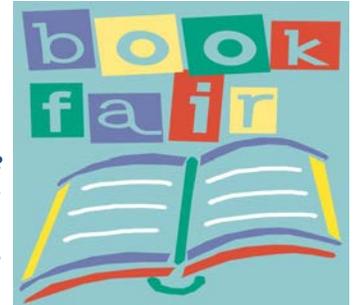
Are you thinking about getting your child a cell phone but aren’t sure if he or she is ready for that responsibility? Does your child already have one, and you wonder if he or she is using it responsibly? If so, you may want to familiarize yourself with Common Sense Media, an independent nonprofit with a mission of helping children grow up safely in a world inundated with media and technology.

At <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/cellphone-parenting> you can find many resources to guide you in making cell phone decisions for your child, including the right age to purchase a phone for your child, setting up ground rules for your child’s cell phone use, making sure your child’s screen and phone time is a healthy amount, staying on top of and tracking how your child uses his or her cell phone, and other common parental concerns.

Media Center Happenings

Book Fair

During the week of October 15 the library media center hosted a Scholastic Book Fair, allowing students and teachers to add new books to their personal and classroom libraries. Additionally, the library media center earned over \$2000 in Scholastic Dollars which we will use to purchase library books and other materials. This was the most profitable book fair we have had in over four years. During the drive we also collected \$109 that we used to purchase books for Kate's Kart (<https://kateskart.org>), a local nonprofit organization that delivers new books to children in area hospitals. This is also the largest amount we've ever collected for Kate's Kart. We're grateful for the help of parent volunteers who worked at the book fair and whose assistance made the book fair so successful. In May 2019 we will host a Scholastic "buy-one-get-one-free" book fair. Although the May BOGO fair will not earn us any profits in Scholastic Dollars (the profit is extended to the students when they "get one free") it is a great way to help students stock up on summer reading.



Barnes & Noble Book Fair—Save the Date.

The Summit Library Media Center will hold an in-store book fair at Barnes and Noble, Jefferson Pointe, on Saturday, Dec. 1 during normal store hours. When members of the Summit community shop in the store that day and also use one of the attached vouchers, the media center will earn a percentage of the purchase price. You can also shop online at barnesandnoble.com from Dec. 1 to Dec. 6, using the voucher code at check out for a percentage of your online purchases to benefit the library media center.

Summit's Select Choir will perform in the store, we will host story time for the little ones, and will have other events throughout the day. More details will come via the SMS social media and messaging as Dec. 1 draws near.

Games in the Library Media Center

Summit's library media center is building a collection of board and card games so that we can regularly host gaming socials after school. We currently have a couple sets of Mancala, checkers, SET, chess, Othello, Mastermind, and Chinese checkers and single sets of Clue, Yahtzee, and Stratego. We are asking for donations of new or gently used (and complete) board and card games. Specific items on our wish list include SET dice, Suspicion, Catan, Ticket to Ride, and Pandemic.

Summit Band & Choir Concerts

Upcoming Performance

Dates:

Band Concert:

December 10, 2018 7:00 PM

Choir Concert:

December 12, 2018 7:00 PM

Summit's band and choir students have put in many hours practicing for their performances. To be a good audience please keep the following guidelines in mind when attending a concert:

- ◆ Younger siblings attending should be seated with an adult at all times. (They should not be in the commons area, gym, or back of cafetorium.)

- ◆ For safety reasons please do not allow younger siblings to be on or around the stage area at any time.
- ◆ Turn off all cell phones.
- ◆ If you must exit the cafetorium once the concert has begun, please wait to exit between songs.
- ◆ Your applause is welcome, however do not yell to specific participants.

Thank you for making concerts at Summit a pleasant experience for everyone.

Book Fees

Yearly book fee statements have been sent out and are due in November if not already paid. Please make checks payable to SACS and mail to: SACS, 4824 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814. If you have any questions in regard to the fees, please contact Mrs. Wilson at 431-2030.



Student Phone Calls to Parents

Please tell your child(ren) that if they call you during the day from a school phone, they need to leave a message in regard to why they are calling. All outgoing phone calls from Summit reflect the office phone number. The office has no way of knowing why your student is calling you or what they may need. Thank you in advance for reviewing this with your child(ren).

"A well-educated mind will always have more questions than answers."
Helen Keller

World Language Information for Current 6th Graders

Summit offers courses in three world languages: French, Latin, and Spanish. This elective class experience begins in seventh grade and continues into eighth grade. These courses provide the opportunity for high school credit and offer a rigorous academic experience with nightly homework. These courses may be more demanding than other electives. Because academic success in sixth grade is our best indicator for success in world language courses, sixth grade G.P.A. (grade point average) at the end of the first semester is used to determine placement if more requests are received than seats available. The scheduling process for the 2019-2020 school year will begin in January. Please know that a student who does not take a world language in middle school may start this experience in high school.

Perfect Attendance

Southwest Allen County Schools works to foster the development of good attendance habits for a variety of reasons. We believe that when a student misses a day of school, that day of education cannot be retrieved in its entirety.

Summit regularly reinforces good attendance. At the end of each month, three student

names from each grade level who have had perfect attendance for the month are drawn for the prize of a personal pan pizza.

Congratulations to the September winners:

6th Grade: Sara Burson, Owen Purington, Xamir Townes

7th Grade: Lucas Crawford, Lindsay Moreau, Macie Wilson

8th Grade: Evie Bottoms, Caitlyn Potchka, Keaton Ueber



PTO-THANKS



From Summit Staff:

Thank you to all the volunteers who provided the evening meal for staff on the day of Parent Teacher Conferences. The meal was delicious and was truly appreciated by all staff.



Spelling Bee: The school spelling bee will be held on Dec. 5, starting at 3:15 P.M. in the Summit cafeteria. Parents and friends are welcome to come and watch as students spell their way through the word list. Students interested in entering the spelling bee should stop by the media center to sign up and to pick up a practice word list. The school's winner and first runner-up will receive a plaque and the winner will represent the school at the Allen County Spelling Bee in February. Questions can be directed to Ben Moore, SMS media specialist.

An Evening for PARENTS of Current Eighth Graders



Homestead High School Class of 2023

Save the Date!

Ensuring Successful Ninth Grade Transitions



Preparing Today's Learners for Tomorrow's Opportunities



Due to limited space, current SACS Eighth Grade Parents should watch their e-mail for the assigned session time with your son's/daughter's Ninth Grade Counselor and additional information about this special evening!!!

Topics

STARTING Spartan STRONG
PREPARING Students for SUCCESS: Course Options and Diploma Path
EMBRACING RIGOR: Honors, Dual Credit and Advanced Placement (AP) courses and Senior Experience

Exhibitors

Guidance
Department Heads
Electives
Co-curricular activities
Extracurricular activities

Wednesday*
January

16

Time 6:00 - 8:30 pm

QUESTIONS: Jennifer Bay, Assistant Principal HHS jbay@sacs.k12.in.us
Special Thanks: Olin B. and Desta Schwab Foundation College and Career Readiness Grant

*In the event of cancellation due to weather, the program will be held on Tuesday, Jan 22, 2019