

November 2020 Newsletter



A Note from Mrs. Haney, SMS Principal

Dear SMS Families,

Each day continues to be filled with new experiences during these very different COVID times. Your children continue to be a part of a historic time in so many different ways. The most meaningful part of my life's history will be the awe, memories and impact of the many students I've worked with over the years, especially yours! I'd like to share a few examples of why.

During Spirit Week, students were given the following challenge as homerooms, create a collaborative presentation or a video that embodies the school's mission vision.. *Our vision is to build a strong community that fosters belonging, self-discovery, and a love of learning for each student. At Sisters Middle School, we believe that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.* The following are quotes from their presentations:

“SMS is the best school that I have been to in my life. Even though I have only been here for two months, I have a sense of peace and I feel welcome. And that is saying something, given that I have been to nine different schools!”

“Here in SMS I know that I will always be able to be treated with respect and dignity, because of the wonderful teachers, students and anyone else who is apart of our outlaw community. The teachers at SMS specifically are always making sure that we are engaged in our learning, and changing small to even bigger things to make sure that they have met every students needs for learning. Teachers at SMS also make sure that we are always ready and excited to learn. Go outlaws!”

Being an Outlaw means “being kind and having integrity,” “being inclusive and welcoming,” and “means being a unique individual.”

As you are aware we have new metrics laid forth by the state, you can find more information in the presentation and recording from this week's learning sessions. In fact you can find slide decks and/or recordings from all of the sessions below. You will also find a form for parent feedback on the topic of returning to hybrid. Beyond information on these learning sessions, there are several important items in the newsletter, so please read the entirety of it.

On behalf of our staff, we hope you have a great Thanksgiving holiday later this month with your family and friends. This year, I am very thankful for the opportunity to work alongside such a dedicated and creative staff, to collaborate with such supportive parents, and for the ability to work with your incredibly talented children.

Your partner in education and community enhancement,

Mrs. Haney

A Message from Tim Roth, MS-HS Assistant Principal

November – A time to give thanks

As we approach the upcoming winter months and the holiday season, I want to express my deep personal heartfelt thanks for our amazing teachers, students, and families at SMS. This fall continues to present a series of struggles for all of our families... and I am thankful for the entire Sisters community.

Teachers – Teachers are such a BIG part of our life. Even from afar. They provide us all with the tools to succeed, safe learning spaces, knowledge, and enthusiasm. Think of that one (or many) teacher(s) who has guided you along the way, helped you get through a tough subject, or even spent extra time with you. They are truly amazing people to be thankful for! Please encourage your student to write a quick note to a teacher who has helped or made a special impact on them this fall.

As we approach the end of the first trimester, encourage your student to reach out to their teachers and use the additional instructional hours from 1:30 PM until 3:30 PM Monday through Thursday each week for connection, content assistance, assignment completion, or maybe just to say thanks.

With Respect and Kindness,

Mr. Roth

A Message from Brook Jackson, MS Counselor

Understanding Grief & Loss Event [Dougy Center Flyer](#)

Dear Sisters School District Parents,

Please join us for an evening of learning, sharing and healing. On Thursday, November 12th, from 6-7:30 p.m. our District will be co-hosting through a virtual setting, The Dougy Center, to provide education and support for understanding grief and loss. The Dougy Center provides support and training to help children, teens, young adults and families through grief.

This presentation will include a 60 minute presentation, followed by a 30 minute question and answer session. Parents, community members and youth (middle school age and up accompanied by an adult) are encouraged to attend.

Featured guest, Donna Schuurman, Ed.D. F.T. Director Emeritus of The Dougy Center. Additional guests include Central Oregon Safety Chaplaincy, Deschutes County Health Services, Lines for Life, Oregon Family Support Network, and YouthLine

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93786970017> Meeting ID: 937 8697 0017 Phone: 1-253-215-8782

A Message from our Health Team (Jules Davies, Elisa Halemeier & Brook Jackson)

Dear Parents/Guardians of Sisters Middle School Students (Grades 6-8):

Sisters Middle School will be delivering the *My Future-My Choice* curriculum in grades 6-8 to meet Oregon's health education requirements. *My Future-My Choice* is a skills-based, comprehensive, age-appropriate, and medically accurate sexual health education program. It was created to help middle school students recognize the pressures and consequences of early sexual involvement. It also encourages students to make healthy choices for themselves. Students learn about puberty, healthy relationships, assertive communication, healthy decision-making, and consent.

Please follow this link [SMS Health Information Parent Letter](#) below to view additional information and access the opt-out letter.



Picture Day

Lifetouch pictures will be taking place in November on the 17th & 18th. We have the 5th & 6th graders scheduled for November 17th from 1:00pm until 3:30pm and 7th & 8th graders are scheduled for November 18th from 1:00pm until 3:30pm. The plan is for students to come during specified times in an alphabetical order. More information will be given as time comes closer.

[Lifetouch link](#)

Youth Truth Survey

Each year Sisters School District 3rd-12th graders take the Youth Truth Survey. The survey is centered around Student perceptions at school which are linked to academic outcomes, so it's smart to know what students are experiencing in our schools and classrooms. Through the validated survey instruments and tailored advisory services YouthTruth partners with schools and districts to enhance learning for all students. To see survey questions, follow this link [Click here to download the Student Survey questions](#) and if you'd like your child to opt out please see the form at the bottom of the newsletter. Please scan and email to myself (alison.haney@ssd6.org) or drop it off at school.

Election Results

As we await to see who our next president will be, we are happy to share resources with any families that would like support in discussing elections and post-election results. It such a unique time to discuss the importance of voting, the right to vote, understanding multiple perspectives, respecting others opinions, being a humble as both a winner and a loser and the like.

Notes from the Front Office

Holidays

Veteran's Day Observed, Friday November 13th--No School

Thanksgiving Break will be November 25th through November 29th--No School

Online Book Fair

Dear Parents and Families:

We are working hard to keep kids funds for our school with our Online-Only Book Fair from Nov 9-22.



reading and raise
Scholastic

[Short Book Fair Video](#)

The Fair will connect your kids to notable books and inspiring characters — helping them become lifelong readers. And you'll love the new option to shop for Book Fair exclusives — directly from the interactive booklist. Thank you for continuing to support our school. Happy reading!

Plus, enjoy these special online shopping features:

- Access to over 6,000 products
- All orders ship direct to home (in time for the holidays)
- FREE shipping on book-only orders over \$25*
- All purchases support our school and earn 25% in rewards

Visit our Book Fair homepage to learn more and get started with online shopping:

[Click Here to Shop the SMS Book Fair!](#)

A message from Mr. Schiedler, Leadership Teacher at SMS

The leadership team has been working hard to create some fun and creative ways to keep students and families engaged. Thank you to everyone who has participated in many of our competitions. We look forward to continuing these activities even if that means through distance learning!

Merchandise

Please email Jeff.schiedler@ssd6.org if you are interested in purchasing Outlaw Swag. The biggest request has been for youth sizes and hoodies. We will be making these items as soon as possible. The purchase of merchandise goes to our student leadership group which supports our incentive systems and much more.

Parent Learning Sessions Slidedecks & Recordings

Brook Jackson: SEL/Wellness

Recording: [Brook's Video](#)

Slidedeck: [Wellness & Resources](#)

Molly Pearring: Academic Support

Recording: [Academic Support Video](#)

Slidedeck: [Academic Support](#)

Tim Roth: Canvas Ins & Outs

Recording: [Canvas Recording](#)

Erika Velikonja: Executive Functioning

Slidedeck: [Executive Functioning](#)

Alison Haney: ODE Updated Metrics & Next Steps for SMS

Recording: [Video](#)

Slidedeck: [Haney's Slides](#)

Parent Feedback: [SMS Parent Feedback on Metrics & Reopening](#)

See below for Opt-Out Letters

“OVERALL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE” STUDENT SURVEY
Using random student login codes, or no login codes
Passive “Opt Out” Parental Notification Letter (English)

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are writing to let you know that we are asking your child to participate in the YouthTruth Student Survey in the coming weeks. The YouthTruth Student Survey is a nationally recognized survey used in hundreds of schools and districts across the country, surveying hundreds of thousands of students. The survey asks students about their experiences in the school and with their teachers, including how engaged they are at school, the rigor of their coursework, and their preparedness for the future. Our school, other schools, and researchers may use such information for developing plans to help schools and teachers improve. For information about this survey, please visit <http://youthtruthsurvey.org>, or speak to a school administrator.

Although we want to hear from all students, participation in this survey is voluntary.

Your child’s ratings will not be identified in any reports because results are shared at the group level. Personally identifiable information will not be released to any third party.

Please be aware that under federal law, you have the right to review a copy of the questions asked of your child. If you would like to do so, you can view a copy of the survey at school.

Opt-Out

Please complete this form only if you would like your child to be excluded from the survey.

I do not give my permission for my child to participate in this survey.

Parent/Guardian signature:

Date:

Child’s Full Name: _____

“OVERALL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE” STUDENT SURVEY
Using random student login codes, or no login codes
Passive “Opt Out” Parental Notification Letter (Spanish)

Estimado padre o tutor,

Le escribimos para hacerle saber que le estamos pidiendo a su hijo/ que participe en la Encuesta de Estudiantes YouthTruth en las próximas semanas. La Encuesta de Estudiantes YouthTruth es una encuesta nacionalmente reconocida utilizada en cientos de escuelas y distritos de todo el país, examinando cientos de miles de estudiantes. La encuesta le pregunta a los estudiantes acerca de sus experiencias en la escuela y con sus maestros, incluyendo la forma en que están comprometidos en la escuela, el rigor de sus cursos, y su preparación para el futuro. Nuestra escuela, otras escuelas, y los investigadores podrán utilizar dicha información para el desarrollo de planes para ayudar a las escuelas y a los maestros a mejorar. Para obtener información acerca de esta encuesta, por favor visite <http://youthtruthsurvey.org>, o contacte a la escuela. Aunque queremos saber de todos los estudiantes, la participación en esta encuesta es voluntaria.

Las calificaciones de su hijo/a no serán identificados en los informes porque los resultados son compartidos a nivel de grupo. Información de identificación personal no será revelada a otros grupos terceros. Tenga en cuenta que bajo la ley federal, usted tiene el derecho de revisar una copia de las preguntas de su hijo/a. Si desea hacerlo, puede ver una copia de la encuesta en la escuela.

Exclusión Voluntaria/ Renuncia a Participar

Por favor, complete este formulario SOLO si desea que su hijo/a sea excluido de la encuesta.

Yo no doy mi permiso para que mi hijo/a participe en esta encuesta.

Firma de Padre/Tutor: _____ Date: _____

Nombre completo del estudiante: _____