

Sahuarita Middle School
Open House

Welcome
Students and Families

August 2, 2018

5:00 p.m.

Sahuarita Middle School

Home of the Jaguars

Introductions:

- Mrs. Stephanie Silman, Principal
- Mr. Robert Beachy, Assistant Principal
- Mr. Wil Arias, Assistant Principal, SIS/SMS/WRES
- Mr. John Haas, Counselor
- Dr. Gabriela Costa, Prevention Specialist
- Mrs. Jamie Farmer, Volunteer Coordinator



Shared Expectations

- Students—Jaguars GROWL and are TRRFCC!
 - GET THERE
 - RESPECT
 - OWN UP
 - WATCH OUT
 - LEARN
- *Trustworthiness*
- *Respect*
- *Responsibility*
- *Fairness*
- *Caring*
- *Citizenship*
- Teachers and Staff—Prepare students academically and socially for future success and personal excellence.
- Families—Communicate with your child's teachers, have high expectations, and discuss and check school work and homework with your child daily. *Consistency is key.*
- Student success is greatly improved when there are support and teamwork between the school and home.

PBIS and Character Counts

- **Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)**
 - The goal is for all adults to teach, model, reinforce, and recognize positive, acceptable behavior practices to all students throughout the campus.
 - By promoting appropriate behavior, PBIS reduces behavior problems, establishes a safe environment for learning and teaching, and has a positive influence on school climate and culture.
- **Character Counts** supports PBIS by establishing consistent language and a shared set of norms to guide our actions in how everyone treats each other at SMS.

Academic Highlights

- Academic rigor by teaching and assessing students on the Arizona Standards in all subjects.
- Alignment with Beyond Textbooks (BT) framework.
- Varied curriculum that includes core classes as well as art, band, jazz band, orchestra, choir, physical education, weight-training, Student Council, National Junior Honor Society, Spanish, 8th Grade Chinese, 8th Grade Forensics, and advanced classes.
- Algebra, Geometry, and 8th grade Zero Hour Spanish and Mandarin Chinese receive HS credit.
- Daily attendance is critical for learning.

Grading and Assessment

- Teachers have determined their grading norms in collaboration with the other teachers in their grade-level team, and they are outlined in the student handbook and in teachers' syllabi.
- Progress reports are mailed home in the middle of each quarter. Report cards are mailed home at the end of each quarter.
- Grades are updated each Monday morning.
- Parents and students are encouraged to register for a **free PowerSchool account** so that they can view grades and teacher comments online.

Letter Grades

- Letter grades follow a standard A-F scale. This scale is for assignments and classes in general.
- Grades are calculated cumulatively each semester. Some Electives are semesterly, and some are yearly (Leadership, Music, Forensics, and high school credit Mandarin and Spanish)
 - A 90-100%
 - B 80-89%
 - C 70-79%
 - D 60-69%
 - F 59% and below

Reteach and Enrichment

- R/E is a dedicated 40-minute period for students to receive a quarterly enrichment class where they will engage in enrichment lessons and activities aligned to the Arizona Standards in Science, Social Studies, and the Electives.
- In Math class, student performance will be analyzed through taking brief, weekly formative assessments.
- Based on the results, students may be scheduled for Reteach during R/E the next week, and they will receive personalized, targeted Math intervention.

Homework

- Ten to fifteen minutes of homework may be assigned daily in all classes.
- Homework can be written work or review/studying class notes, vocabulary/flash cards, preparing for weekly formative assessments, reading, etc.
- All students will receive a two-pocket folder, and in this folder they will keep their homework checklist (a two-sided weekly sheet that includes a space for each class period) and any written homework assignments.
- Completion of homework is essential. It helps teachers to monitor students' progress in learning the standards and helps students prepare for assessments.

Homework Folder and Checklist

- Parents should check this folder nightly to see what homework has been assigned and to ensure that their student does it and puts the written homework back in the folder to be turned in the next day. Parents are not required to sign off on homework checklist or the assignments.
- Homework should be meaningful and able to be done by students independently.
- If a student accrues several missing homework assignments, the teacher may arrange with the parents a time for the student to come early or stay after school to make them up, such as during Excel2. These students may take the activity bus home or get picked up by parents.

Excel2 Program

- Excel2 is a five-year, grant-funded before- and after-school program that began in October 2016.
- Before school tutoring is available from 7:20-8:20am Monday-Friday.
- After school tutoring and enrichment is from 3:30-5:15pm Mon.-Thurs.
- Enrichment offerings are based on student interest.



Athletics

- Quarter 1: Volleyball, Flag Football, Cross Country, Cheerleading
- Quarter 2: Boys' Basketball, Girls' Soccer, Cheerleading
- Quarter 3: Girls' Basketball, Boys' Soccer, Cheerleading, Wrestling
- Quarter 4: Track and Field, Softball, Baseball



Clubs and School Spirit

■ Clubs:

- Art
- Yearbook
- Wrestling
- Kindness
- Lady Hoosiers
- PBIS
- Other clubs that students express an interest in can be created and may vary annually.

■ School spirit:

- Pep rallies & socials
- Awards assemblies
- Spirit days
- Positive incentives
- Fun Fridays at lunch



School-Home Communication

- SMS Facebook page
- SUSD/SMS Websites
- Monthly Newsletters
- Marquee Reminders
- Flyers sent home
- Homework Checklist
- PS Parent Portal
 - Attendance and grades
 - View teacher comments
- BT Parent Portal
 - Videos, articles, & more
- PTO Facebook page
 - PTO monthly meetings
- If you have a concern, please contact the specific teacher to resolve it quickly. Counselors or administrators can provide additional help if needed. We are here to be of service and can only help if we know there is a problem.

Visiting Classrooms

- Visit your child's teachers according to his/her class schedule.
- Classes are 10 minutes long with 5-minute passing periods. Teachers in Per. 1 will also discuss Daily Math Skills (DMS). Teachers in Per. 3 will also discuss Reteach/Enrich (R/E).
- Full-year R/E classes will meet at 7:00pm tonight.
- Please arrange a phone call or conference for a later time with the teacher if you have individual questions that relate to your child.

Closing Reminders

- Classroom visits begin at 5:30pm with **Zero Hour**.
- If you have **8th Gr. Mandarin Chinese** during **Zero Hour**, please go to the **library** at 5:30pm.
- If you have **8th Gr. Geometry or Honors Geometry** during **Period 1**, please go to the **library** at 5:45pm.
- If during **R/E** you have **Student Council** (in the library), **6th Grade Leadership** (in G105), **6th Grade Choir** (in F132 in the library), or **Jazz Band** (in B100), please report to the respective classroom after Period 5 at **7:00 p.m.**
- ***Thank you for coming tonight! Please save the Date for Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences—Thursday, October 18, 2018.***