



NEWBURGH ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

South Middle School

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Greetings, SMS families.

I hope this message finds you healthy and doing well. It has been a challenging year, but we are moving forward with returning to a sense of normalcy with more students returning to the building. Seeing the school buses arrive and hearing the children's voices has brought cheer back to our building!

As we begin the second half of the school year, I want to remind you how important it is that students attend class (whether in person or remotely), complete work assignments, and participate in class. Maintaining connections to classmates and to SMS staff will help your student succeed and prepare them to move back into the building either this school year or in the fall.

If you have questions about your students' promotion to the next grade, please contact the grade level counselor and request a meeting. In addition, there is academic support for all scholars on Wednesdays and Empire After School Program.

During the upcoming Spring Break, please ensure that your scholar is independent reading and practicing math skills.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children and for adapting with us as we've navigated a difficult year. Spring is around the corner, and I have high hopes that it will bring a renewal and brightness that is much needed.

Yours in Education,
Chanté Brooks

INFORMATION:

REMINDER:

Technology assistance is available through the district help desk:

[Use this link to get help!](#)

Add us on Social Media!

Facebook
Instagram
Twitter

Reminder:

A lot of information is posted in our Parent Hub.
[Save or bookmark this link so you can stay up to date on important information!](#)



Important Dates:

March 29 - April 2: Spring Break Starts

Empire After-School Programs

Interested in joining? All programs are virtual from 3:15 - 4:15.

[Click here to fill out the application form!](#)

Program	Description
Identity & Diversity in the Classroom	Students will dive into topics of identity, including race, ethnicity, gender, religion, class, sexual orientation, Dis/Ability and the ways that these things impact our society and their everyday lives inside their classrooms! Students will also investigate problems and inequalities faced by members of these identities. Students will connect with organizations who are doing work to promote equity in our community around these topics.
Mad Scientists	Do you love science??? Then join the SMS science club!! We will be engaging in virtual science experiments. Have an experiment in mind? Let's try it!
Coding & Cultural Awareness	Having cultural awareness makes us global citizens! It helps us break down cultural barriers and build cultural bridges. I know it's a cliché, but it truly can help us "change the world." When we break down those cultural barriers, we learn to love those who are different from us. Have you ever wondered how games and apps are created? Would you like to learn how to make an app of your own? Learn to Code! When coding you can make your own creations, practice critical thinking and learn how to strategize. Those are the skills that last a lifetime. You will also gain the skills and knowledge to make games and apps, when you learn to code!
Academic Enrichment & Homework Help	Do you need help with homework, projects, or your classwork in your classes? This course will focus on helping students understand the topics being covered in their classes. All topics, all languages welcome. When students are complete, we will do SEL (social emotional learning activities).
Academic Achievement/enrichment	Are you having trouble with your homework? Do you often feel confused about a topic in your core subjects? Never fear, academic enrichment is here! In this course, we will focus on YOU and your specific learning needs. Bring all of your questions and get help with your assignments in your core subjects (math, ELA, science and social studies). In inclusive academic achievement, all students can be successful!
Health & Fitness	Rising New York Road Runners events combine fitness activities, short dashes, and races to give kids a fun and rewarding experience designed to build the confidence they need to cross any finish line.
Teen Outreach Program	Teens develop a vision for their own bright futures and hone their skills as leaders. Teens in TOP CLUBS develop their unique skills, learning how they can make a difference in their community and connect with peers and adults, laying the groundwork for healthy behaviors, practical life skills and a deep sense of purpose.
Making Proud Choices	The Making Proud Choices! program (MPC) gives teens the information, skills and confidence to protect themselves and to learn about behaviors and lower their risks.
Dance Class	Classes are structured to be fun and engaging for the recreational dancer and possible dance offerings include ballet, jazz, modern, and hip-hop.

BrainPower Tool to use at home:




Do you need Help Getting Your Child Back on Track Academically?

- We at SMS recommend the following strategies for academic success during remote learning: Be in attendance for class, participate and be present
- Stay on top of your assignments, work on them the night they are given
- Ask for help from Teachers, Counselors, Administrators, or Teaching Assistants
- Use Wednesdays to complete assignments, get help from your Teachers, and do something to help yourself as a Social Emotional Learner
- Take a breath and take things one step at a time

March Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
March 1 - C Day	March 2 - A Day	March 3 - B Day	March 4 - C Day	March 5 - A Day
Blue Cohort - School Starts at 7am	Blue Cohort - School Starts at 7am	Asynchronous Wednesday: Be sure to complete your attendance and your Health Screening	Gold Cohort - School Starts at 7am	Gold Cohort - School Starts at 7am
March 8 - B Day	March 9 - C Day	March 10 - A Day	March 11 - B Day	March 12 - C Day
Blue Cohort - School Starts at 7am	Blue Cohort - School Starts at 7am Regular BOE Meeting @ 6:00	Asynchronous Wednesday: Be sure to complete your attendance and your Health Screening	Gold Cohort - School Starts at 7am	Gold Cohort - School Starts at 7am Progress Report
March 15 - A Day	March 16 - B Day	March 17 - C Day	March 18 - A Day	March 19 - B Day
Blue Cohort - School Starts at 7am	Blue Cohort - School Starts at 7am	Asynchronous Wednesday: Be sure to complete your attendance and your Health Screening	Gold Cohort - School Starts at 7am	Gold Cohort - School Starts at 7am
March 22 - C Day	March 23 - A Day	March 24 - B Day	March 25 - C Day	March 26 - A Day
Blue Cohort - School Starts at 7am	Blue Cohort - School Starts at 7am Regular BOE Meeting @ 6:00	Asynchronous Wednesday: Be sure to complete your attendance and your Health Screening	Gold Cohort - School Starts at 7am	Gold Cohort - School Starts at 7am
March 29	March 30	March 31	April 1	April 2
Spring Recess No School	Spring Recess No School	Spring Recess No School	Spring Recess No School	Spring Recess No School

SCIP Update

Goal #1	
Not on Target Currently at 33.9% absenteeism	South Middle School will prioritize tone, empathy, and positive communication which will result in a reduced chronic absenteeism rate of 18% or less, as monitored through the South Middle School attendance committee.
Goal #2	
On Target: 65% of SMS teachers are regularly providing students with clear and concise feedback to improve their work,	50% of SMS teachers will regularly provide students with clear and concise feedback to improve their work.
Goal #3	
On Target! 	By June 2021 SMS will have implemented 4 units of ReThink Ed and consistently use Brain Power Wellness resulting in a reduction in referral rates not to exceed 142 referrals each month.
Goal #4	
On Target! 71% of parents surveyed strongly agreed/agreed	66% of parents agreeing that "they are satisfied with how well the school communicates with them".
Goal #5	
On Target: Based on the student survey, 63% of students surveyed strongly agreed/agreed	By January 2021, there will be an increase of 5% from 43.5% to 48.5% of students who agree or strongly agree with the survey statement "In this school, everyone is treated fairly regardless of race, culture, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender, or special needs".