



# SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS LETTER

January 2026

## PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Welcome Back, SMS Families! 🎉

Happy New Year to our wonderful South Middle School community! We're excited to partner with you to make this year an incredible success for all our students.

### Every Day Matters

Consistent attendance is one of the most important factors in your child's academic success. Every day—and every minute—truly counts! Please help us ensure your student arrives on time and ready to learn each day.

### Winter Wellness & Safety

As temperatures continue to drop, please make sure your child has a warm jacket and appropriate winter clothing. While we want everyone here learning, please keep students home if they're showing signs of illness. This flu season has been particularly challenging, and we appreciate your help in keeping our school community healthy and safe.

### Amazing Opportunities for Your Child

We're thrilled to offer several FREE programs to support your student's growth:

- **21st Century After-School Program** – enrichment and academic support
- Empire Program – additional learning opportunities
- **Math Tutoring** – extra help for students who need additional support

Don't let these opportunities pass by—sign your child up today!

### Join Our PTG Family

Our Parent Teacher Group (PTG) is the heartbeat of our school community! We'd love to have you join us in supporting our students and making SMS an even better place. Your voice, ideas, and presence matter—come be part of something special!

### Stay Connected

- Check the school calendar regularly for upcoming holidays and important dates
- Keep in touch with your child's teachers—they're your partners in success
- Monitor your student's progress through the Parent Portal for up-to-date grades and information

Need help accessing the Parent Portal? Contact our FACE Team or call the main office at 845-563-7000, and we'll get you connected right away!

Thank you for your continued partnership. Together, we're making great things happen for our students!

With appreciation,  
The SMS Administration Team

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 5th:**  
**School Resumes**

**January 6th & 28th:**  
**Town Hall Assemblies**

**January 23rd:**  
**End of the 2nd Marking Period**

**January 19th:**  
**School Closed-MLK**

**January 30th:**  
**Winter Dance**

**February 3rd & 4th**  
**NYS Computer Based CBT Simulation**

**February 4th**  
**Report Card Distribution**

**February 12th**  
**Singing Telegrams delivered by students**

**February 26th**  
**Black History Celebration**





## PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE CONTINUED

### January's Monthly Theme: Growth Mindset

A **Growth Mindset**, a concept coined by psychologist Carol Dweck, is the belief that abilities, intelligence, and talents can be developed through dedication, effort, and learning from challenges rather than being fixed traits. Individuals with a growth mindset embrace challenges, view effort as a pathway to mastery, learn from feedback, and find inspiration in the success of others. This mindset fosters resilience and leads to higher levels of achievement compared to a fixed mindset, which assumes abilities are static and unchangeable.

During our **Grade Level Town Hall Assemblies**, scholars participated in a variety of growth mindset activities designed to encourage positive thinking and perseverance. To continue reinforcing these ideas, **daily morning announcements and activities** will focus on promoting a growth mindset throughout our school community.

SMS Students and staff are encouraged to approach learning and challenges with a growth mindset. As we reflect, consider the following guiding questions:

- How does a growth mindset help us learn new things?
- What is one belief you used to have about your abilities that you might rethink?
- How can changing your mindset affect your goals at school or outside of school?

Together, let's continue to grow, learn, and challenge ourselves every day.

### 21st Century After School Academic Support

The 21st Century after school academic support program is up and running. We are offering academic support in ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, and ENL-English as a New Language. If you have a student that needs academic support please fill out this form: [21st Century Student Application](#)



### SMS Highlights

