



— SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL —

COYOTE CLASSIFIED



FEBRUARY 2021

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

Hello SW families! As the weather continues to be unpredictable, please ensure your child is wearing a coat, hat, and gloves to school each day. We want to be sure your children are protected from the weather.

We will begin our Fastbridge testing February 1st. This will be for 1st grade in-person students and all 2nd-4th grade students. When your student is taking a Fastbridge test it is important to let the student answer on their own. This test helps us know where we can better support your student. If you give your student the answers or guide them in the right direction this skews the data and is a disservice to your child. Kindergarten students will continue taking ESGJ testing. Again this is a measure of what your student knows and how we can help them.

State testing will begin in April for 3rd and 4th grade. This test will be for all remote and in-person learners. Remote students will need to come into the building to take the assessment. Safety protocols will be in place to help keep everyone safe. More details to come in March's newsletter.

Please encourage your remote students to participate in class. It is difficult to know what your student needs if they are not engaged in the lesson. Some good habits include: keeping your camera on, answering questions, working in a defined space with less distractions, keeping food/toys/drinks away, having materials accessible.

2/5 Hat Day

2/8 Asynchronous Day

2/12 Mismatched Day

2/15 President's Day- No School

2/19 Beach Day

2/22 Asynchronous Day

2/26 Tie-Dye Day

3/8 Asynchronous Day

Food Distribution for Remote Learners only

If you have kids in multiple schools, you can pick up all their food at one school.

Danville High School

Tuesday mornings 10-11AM

Tuesday evenings 5-6 PM

North Ridge

Tuesday evenings 5-6 PM

South View

Tuesday evenings 5-6PM

Mark Denman

Tuesday evenings 5-6 PM

Thank you for your contribution to our education:

Hometown Proud McDonalds

South Side Church of Christ

~~~~~**Pre-K**~~~~~

A big thank you to the families who are able to participate in remote learning every day! As a reminder, there are several ways that you can participate including attending live Google meetings, watching pre-recorded videos, and submitting pictures of your child's work from the remote learning grid or other learning tool. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions about how you can participate or call 444-3266 for more information. After a quick theme about winter, the preschool classrooms have been digging deep into the Creative Curriculum theme of Buildings. They have been learning about what buildings are made of, who builds buildings, and how to make buildings strong. They will continue this theme through most of February and then spend some time learning about Black History. If you know of a child who is between the ages of 3 and 5 and is interested in getting enrolled into our program, please call 444-3525 and leave your name and phone number to get signed up for a screening!

*Happy February! This month is Black History Month, and while we won't be able to celebrate and recognize the importance of Black History Month in-person, I hope that you and your family feel empowered to celebrate safely in your home.*

*If you feel so inclined, I encourage you to send me a photo of your family celebrating Black History Month. This could be a photo of your Preschooler's artwork, reading books, listening to music, or maybe even enjoying a meal together. Share these with me and I will share them with our Southwest Family.*

*Every Wednesday in February, along with my regular Social Emotional Classroom lesson, I will share various stories, games, and activities that you and your Preschooler can do at home in honor of Black History Month. My hope is that through sharing these with our Pre-K families, all our children can begin to understand and appreciate this rich culture and significant history.*

*Alison Crooks, Preschool Social Worker*

## **KINDERGARTEN**

Kindergarten has made it to 3rd quarter! Your child should know all the following at this time: identify all letters and sounds, write their first name, write all capitals and lowercase letters, identify all shapes, identify numbers to 10, and count by 10's and 1's to 50. If your child is not able to do these things, please work on these skills at home. Reminder that your child has homework every day that needs to be completed after class for both in-person and remote students. Thank you! We appreciate your support in your child's education.

## **FIRST GRADE**

Valentine's Day is around the corner! We will be talking about how to be kind and caring. Welcome back to in-person students, we are so happy to see you back in the building! Thanks for being patient during remote learning; your cooperation and help was much appreciated. In language arts, we will continue discussing the different story elements: setting, character, narrator, and plot. Ms. Coffman's in-person students will be starting a nonfiction unit on technology while learning how to identify the main idea and key details in a text. For math, they will be practicing applying strategies for subtraction facts. Dr. Brown's and Ms. Randolph's remote learners will continue problem-solving and solving addition and subtraction equations within 10.

## **Second Grade**

It's February! The year seems to be flying by! We are glad to see the in-person students back in the building. We are moving right along with our lessons. We are working through Unit 5: Solving Problems Through Technology. We are working on summarizing, identifying the main topic of a text, and identifying author's purpose. Please continue to read at home to increase comprehension and fluency. Later in the month we will begin Unit 6: Tales to Live by. In math, we are continuing to work on subtracting within 100. Continue to practice this skill as well as the basic facts for fluency. It is important to have that foundation of the basic facts. We will also spend some time learning about some important African Americans during Black History Month and their contributions to history. Thank you for your continued support with your child's learning. It is very much appreciated!

## **Third Grade**

Third grade will be starting Advancements in Technology in Reading. This unit focuses on inventions and how they have advanced through the years. In math we are moving on to adding and subtracting within 1000. Students should continue practicing math facts at home to improve fluency. Please be reading with your students at home. This will help them so much. Just a reminder to all the parents that we appreciate all of your hard work as well as your students.

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## **Fourth Grade**

Hello 4th grade families! We are still having a lot of issues with students getting their independent work done at home. Be sure to help your student keep up with their work since there isn't much time to work on skills in class this year. Be sure to practice multiplication facts, reading books together, and any other assignments given in class. We know this year is so hard for everyone and we appreciate your support at home!

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### **A Note from Nurse High**

All new Pre K students and all Kindergarten students must have a school physical completed within the past year, a blood lead test and present a current immunization record. This was all required to be turned in to the school nurse by 10/15/2020. If you have not turned in the required paperwork, your child is now considered NON-COMPLIANT, which means they will not be allowed to attend any in person learning or extra-curricular activities until the required documentation has been turned in. If/when we get released to return to all in person learning, your child will NOT be allowed to attend if they are non-compliant. Paperwork can either be faxed to Carrie High (Southwest Nurse) at 217-444-3507, or emailed to [highc2@danville118.org](mailto:highc2@danville118.org). If you have any questions or concerns, you may call the nurse at 217-444-3546.



## Data Driven

Second semester means a new round of testing. We will be taking a Reading and a Math test to see how students are progressing this year. We will share the data with you at Spring conferences. This data will allow us to offer extra support to students that may need a little help. If my team is working with your student outside of the classroom setting we will send a letter home to inform you. We look forward to helping the students push through and achieve as the year continues.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AMAZING SW STUDENTS!!

| Note from Mrs. Ahmed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | AVID Spotlight Students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
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| <p>Welcome back to the third quarter. Thank you to all the students and the parents for getting adjusted to the new norm and joining the Google classroom every week for the library time. We are happy and excited to be back in person. We will continue to read and support the students as best as we can in their learning. Please encourage your young readers to continue to read, read and read!</p> | <p><b>Pre-K:</b> Isis Berrones-Hinojosa, Omar Kelly, Hunter Amos, Jaylen Scott, Nilo Connor, Joleah Sims</p> <p><b>Kindergarten:</b> Hunter Rouse, Kyllian Tyler, Hunter Frost</p> <p><b>1st Grade:</b> Elena Oates-Rodriguez, Bentley Denton, Keason Vance-Jenkins</p> <p><b>2nd Grade:</b> Dreden Kingore, Ayda Romo</p> <p><b>3rd Grade:</b> Carter Trimble, SonShyne Barnes</p> <p><b>4th Grade:</b> DuJaun Reed, Sora Diffenderfer, Tucker Powell</p> |

## AVID

Hey Southwest Families! "Would You Rather" is a fun strategy that is great for teaching children to make informed decisions as well as debate! When making a choice, students must determine and share WHY they chose the side they did. A fun debate goal is to try and persuade your opponent (with the opposing opinion) to switch sides! The ideas/ possibilities are endless with this activity. Debates can be verbal or written.

Here's a few to try at home:

Would you rather have a magic carpet that flies or your own personal robot?

Would you rather have the chance to design a new toy or a new movie?

Would you rather shovel snow or rake leaves?

Would you rather eat a beetle or be stung by a bee?

Would you rather have a car that can fly or a car that can go underwater?

**A**lways prepared, **V**ery respectful, **I**ntentionally safe, **D**etermined and responsible