

# Red Storm Forecast

January/February 2018

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## **Stonybrook Middle School – GROW: It's What We Do!**

### **Guide. Recognize. Organize. WIN!**

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## Message from Mr. Day

Hello Stonybrook Middle School Families!

Welcome to second semester. I hope this newsletter finds you off to a good start in this new year. January has definitely been off to a busy, yet interrupted start. As children we love to hear “snow day” or “2 hour delay” but as adults we know this means many changes to plans that we have in place! But as with so many things in life, we simply learn to appreciate the ins and outs of the unexpected and respond accordingly. Please note that our calendar has been adjusted given the closing and we now go to school through June 4<sup>th</sup>.

With start of this semester, I met with students through their science classes to share information from the first semester of school with regards to how we at SMS are performing in regards to attendance, academics, and conduct. In short, we have many things to focus on and improve related to these three prongs of school life. I do hope your child has talked with you about this information and my request that as a community, we respond to the needs of our schools.

I am working with my staff to improve our ability to support the ongoing needs of our students. A primary concern are the relationships, whether it is peer to peer, or student to staff. After I presented the information to our students, we then broke into smaller groups and had discussion around 12-15 challenges that have been identified as common issues between our performance and our potential. Students provided wonderful insight that will be shared with the staff as we look to make the improvements.

Additionally, I am creating a student advisory committee called The Red Storm Brigade. I invited students to apply for this committee so that they have an opportunity to serve as a liaison between the student body and the staff. If your child has mentioned this to you, please compliment him/her as this is a step towards being part of the needed solution.

We also had a Family Forum Night on January 10<sup>th</sup> which had representatives from across the district, some local community organizations and members, as well as a group of parents. We had the wonderful opportunity to hear from Dr. Lori Desautels, a professor of neuroscience from Butler University, as she shared the impact adversity has on the adolescent mind. She provided helpful information on how we, as the adults (home, school, and community), can better respond to our young people who have experienced adverse situations.

There is much more to come on this. Please stay informed and join us in our efforts to better support our students and our community. In the meantime, I hope that you and your family weather the flu season unscathed!

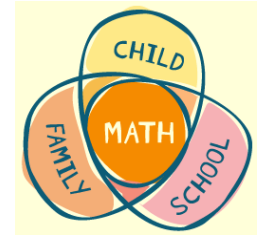
Regards,

Nathan Day

**Civility – Order – Respect- Excellence**

## Family Math Night

February 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM - Mark your calendars for an evening of enjoyable activities! Staff have been preparing an evening of fun family activities as it relates to math and physical education. Activities include cornhole, cakewalk, face painting, various math games, music from our band, choir, and drumming students, and more! We will also have two food trucks on property for you to purchase tasty items from!



## ISTEP+ - Coming Soon!

We will be testing the week of February 26<sup>th</sup> for the annual ISTEP+ State Assessment. Please be talking with your child about ensuring their best effort is given on this assessment as the data is used to drive instruction and class placement and interventions. **In addition, please look at your calendars for the week of February 26<sup>th</sup>. If your child has any appointments in the morning, please consider rescheduling those to prevent missing the test and having to miss classes to make up the test.**

## CORE Quarter – Second Semester Focus

During your child's lunch block, we have a 15 minute period of time where students focus on activities related to our CORE principles. This semester, we have changed the focus up a bit to better assist students. The weekly lineup is below. Please have conversation with your child about these various tasks, the skills they are learning, and how they are implementing this into their daily life.

**Mindfulness Mondays** – Students are learning strategies to help them regulate their mind, to lower stress levels, and to be in a position to respond to various stressors in life. Ask your child about some of the breathing and movement strategies they are learning.

**Typing Tuesday** – While many student are proficient at texting skills, they do not have standard typing skills. Students use the 15 minutes to practice their skills. This is something that can be easily done outside of school as well. There are many websites that provide free training.

**Wisdom Wednesday** – On this day we are teaching students pro-social behaviors to help them navigate social situations successfully.

**Tyler Thursday** – Students are expected to log into our student information system and write down any missing assignments they may have as well as their current grades. Students are then to ask teachers on Friday any questions related to the missing work, complete it and turn it in on Monday upon return to school. Ask to see your child's form every week. Partnering on this, requiring your child to do their assignments, will assist your child's growth.

**Friendship Friday** – School, like many aspects of life, is highly dependent on having healthy relationships. The time on Friday is intended for students and staff to get to know each other and build relationships.

## Tyler – Parent Portal

Want to know what assignments your child may still need to turn in? Curious about your child's grades or other information? Our student information system, Tyler, has a parent portal that allows you to access information regarding your child including grades, attendance, lunch accounts, and book rental fees. Copies of the application requesting access are available in our main office or by visiting

<http://www.warren.k12.in.us/parent-portal>.

## 2017-18 Stonybrook Middle School Yearbook

It's time to order your 44 page full color yearbook for \$25. The yearbook features photo memories of the 2017-18 school year. All orders must be received by March 16. Order forms may be picked up in the Main Office or order online.

**Online:** [ybpay.lifetouch.com](http://ybpay.lifetouch.com)

**School Code:** 12577918

## Performing Arts - Upcoming Concerts and Events

Choir: This year's musical has been announced! If your child would like to audition for "The Little Mermaid Jr." he or she should plan on staying after school February 12th and 13th. Please contact Ms. Martin (317-532-8837).



## News from our Social Worker

Greetings and Happy New Year! As we are now in the winter season, please contact me if you are needing warm coats and gloves for your child. Additionally, if you have gently used coats that you would like to donate for another child, we would be happy to accept donations.

## Social Media – Screen Time: A Life Balance

We realize there are many pressures on parents to provide access for their children to electronic devices, specifically cell phones and video games, as well as popular social media apps such as SnapChat and Instagram. While research shows that there are benefits to activities students engage in on these devices, as with many things, there are many negative impacts.



Ongoing research continues to provide evidence correlating the amount of screen time and social media use with increases of a negative impact on school performance as well as social interactions; we need to collectively be aware of the potential unintended impacts that we are having on our children. Monitoring your child's activity on these devices is paramount for both their mental health as well as their physical safety.

We experience many challenging impacts from student's inappropriate use of these apps, some which they are not old enough to legally have – and are commonly on a phone registered to an adult; the use is happening both in and out of school and it is impacting the overall climate at Stonybrook Middle School. When reviewing our academic, attendance, and conduct information, the priority of a student having a cell phone with them during the day – especially when you consider the access to computers – is so low that every parent should be supportive of our efforts to minimize the ongoing issues these devices cause.

Review of our technology policy, which is listed in the Rights and Responsibilities handbook, is currently occurring. As we look at enforcement of this policy, we will be in communication with parents, students, and staff.

## Guidance Corner

Attention 8th Grade Parents: Warren Central High School scheduling process will start on Friday, February 9th. On this day, WCHS counselors will be at SMS discussing a lot of good information about the high school and working with your child on completing their scheduling paperwork.

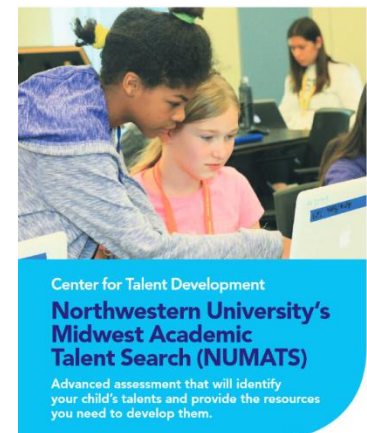
Students will bring home a copy of the paperwork the following week. Should you want to make any changes to the electives that your child chooses, you may do so and return the paper with your signature by Friday, February 16th to Mrs. Nicholson at SMS. There is no need to return the scheduling paper if you are satisfied with the electives your child selected.

Information on summer PE will be coming home on March 5th with sign-ups on March 13th. There will be 30 AM spots and 30 PM spots available at a cost of \$40 per session plus \$25 transportation fee if you need the bus. If all the spots are not filled on March 13th, sign-ups will continue through March 16th. Please contact Mrs. Nicholson with any questions.

## NUMATS Family Guide 2018

Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search (NUMATS) is an advanced assessment that will identify your child's talents and provide the resources you need to develop them. If you are interested in this information, please visit:

<https://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/program/numats#details>



## Spotlight on Science



Science at Stonybrook Middle School is always exciting. We began the second nine weeks with an Achieve 3000\* reading challenge, not only between the classes at SMS, but we also competed against Creston & Raymond Park. Ms. Hobbs' 1st period class won the SMS competition with an average class score of 87%. This is 12% higher than the expected average!

The 8th graders have finished their chemistry unit and were able to do a few lab activities including elephant toothpaste and penny drop. Ms. Redden's classes have already begun the next unit on physics. The 7th graders have begun the Life Science unit and will be using the microscopes to look at different types of cells. This is always a highlight of the year. Everyone likes looking through the microscope.

Finally, we are helping prepare our students for ISTEP. We are giving them writing prompts and grading them just like the IDOE will. We provide feedback and the students make changes followed by more feedback from us. It is every department's responsibility to help our students become better readers and writers. The science team is committed to helping your child become the best they can be.

\*[Achieve 3000](#) is a reading program that is designed to meet your child at his or her current reading level (also referred to as their Lexile score which is a scale used to determine your child's performance relative to his/her age group). It provides differentiated text to then help strengthen your child's reading performance. This resource is available to your child to access at home as well.

## Homework Hotline

Is your child having academic challenges in science and/or math? Wish you had someone to call? You do! Rose Hulman, is a college in Terre Haute, IN that provides FREE support to students across Indiana in these two content areas. Visit their web site or give them a call for more information (contact information in the graphic).



Available Sundays – Thursdays, 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm (ET).

## Fundraiser Top Seller



Myron Washington was our top seller for the discount key tag. As a result, Myron was awarded a smart watch! Way to go Myron! Thanks to those students who helped support SMS with this effort. We raised \$610 for the students, part of which will be used for a group of students who earned a trip to visit Lucas Oil Stadium on February 16<sup>th</sup> for a VIP Colts Tour!

## Students of the Month for December

Congrats to all of our students in the picture below for being selected as Students of the Month! Keep up the great work!





## PBIS News

### THE GREAT KINDNESS CHALLENGE

*January 22-26, 2018*

The Great Kindness Challenge is a positive, proactive prevention initiative, reaching millions of students during the last full week of January every year. Stonybrook participated this year in the challenge, along with Creston & Raymond Park Middle Schools.

The Great Kindness Challenge was created by Kids for Peace to provide schools a tool for creating a positive school environment. In 2017, 10,493,866 students participated and performed over half a billion acts of kindness nationwide.

All students received a checklist on Monday, 1/22, to try to complete as many acts of kindness before Friday. Students that participated in the challenge were to turn in their checklists on Friday to be entered into a drawing.

Warren Middle Schools are all participating in the Challenge and will share some of the acts of kindness using the hashtag #BeKindWarren. Be sure to look it up! Check out more information about the main event: [www.greatkindnesschallenge.org](http://www.greatkindnesschallenge.org)

Kindness Matters!

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports

Note: The first student, first staff member, and first parent who emails Mr. Day and shares from this newsletter the answer to the following question will win a token of appreciation! Q: Whose class won the SMS Achieve challenge second nine weeks?

### Valentine's Dance

As an incentive and reward for students, we are hosting a Valentine's Dance on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM. Students who earn their way to this event will be notified. We look forward to many students working to earn this opportunity. To qualify, a student must meet the following criteria:

- No missing assignments for current term (as of February 12<sup>th</sup>);
- No office referrals from Jan 30<sup>th</sup> until the dance; and
- No out of school suspensions for the current term.

### Boys and Girls Club

It's a new year and we are gearing up for another great quarter! This quarter we will be letting our members show off by allowing them to facilitate programs. These programs include our high yield learning activities, which are interactive games that secretly teach an academic lesson and enrichment activities that rotate in the areas of STEM, Fine Arts, Fitness and Social Studies. Most of the activities will be led by our Jr. Staff. We are excited to see them show what they've learned!

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Students of the Week for December



Erianna Moore



Seth Purvis



Eujan Lampkins



Jenny Medina



Leslie Hernandez



Luca Plata

### Athletics

Any questions regarding SMS Athletics, please contact our Athletic Director Mr. Jeff Cummings ([jcumming@warren.k12.in.us](mailto:jcumming@warren.k12.in.us)) or call the school at 532-8800.

#### **Girls Basketball**

- |   |   |                           |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| -1/31 vs Chapel Hill                          | -2/6 @ Eastwood                           | -2/7 @ FTMS East          |
| -2/13 vs Fall Creek<br>(County Tourney)       | -2/15, 2/17, 2/20 County Tourney<br>Cont. | -2/20 @ Pendleton Heights |
| -2/22 Northview (8 <sup>th</sup> gr.<br>Only) | -2/27 @ Raymond Park                      | -2/28 Vs Guion Creek      |
| -3/3 @ Raymond Park                           |   |                           |

#### **Wrestling**

- |                           |                      |                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| -1/31 vs Guion Creek      | -2/6 @ Westlane      | -2/7 @ Pendleton Heights |
| -2/14 @ Fall Creek Valley | -2/15 @ Mt. Vernon   | -2/20 @ Northview        |
| -2/22 vs Belzer           | -2/27 @ Raymond Park | -2/28 vs Greenfield      |



## **Swimming & Diving**

-2/1 vs Southport  
-2/13 vs Lawrence N. & Heritage Christian  
-2/22 @ Perry Meridian & Ben Davis

-2/5 vs Decatur  
-2/14 vs Eastern Hancock & Greenfield  
-2/24 MIIC Meet @ Pike

-2/7 vs Beech Grove  
-2/20 @ Lawrence Central  
-2/28 @ Franklin Central

## **SMS Welcomes the Following New Staff**



### **Front Office - Receptionist**

My name is Julia McGinnis. I am the receptionist at Stonybrook. I graduated from Arsenal Tech last June. I am starting classes at IVY Tech in the fall. A random thing about me is, I absolutely love pigs and want one as a pet 😊.

### **PE/Health**

My name is Brandon Kish, and I am from Cleveland, Ohio. I graduated from Ball State and I have lived in Indiana for 2 years now and absolutely love it. A few things about me: I am a huge Cleveland sports fan, I love eating and trying new food, music and traveling.



### **PE Instructional Assistant**

Hello all! My name is Veronica Prim! Fun fact, I am a former Stonybrook Middle school student. I attended SMS before all the cool remodeling! I've been diligently working with a partnership program, The YMCA of Greater Indianapolis in Warren Township for about 5 years. I am happy to have made the transition over to the Stonybrook family!



"I love working with kids, talking with them and listening to them. I always encourage kids to reach beyond their dreams. Don't try to be like me. Be better than me. " -Florence Griffith Joyner

### **Grade 7 – English Language Arts**

My name is Lisa Doherty Fink. I am an educator with 23 years experience under my belt. I am a former IPS Literacy Coach. I am certified in Language Arts, Reading, and Social Studies. I have a BA in English and an MA in Humanities and Civic Leadership, both from the University of Louisville.

I have an MAT from Spalding University and am working on my Ed.D in Culture, Language, and Literacy from IU. I have a son, Jimmy, who is 15 and a daughter, Sarah, who is 19. I live with my husband, Tony, in Zionsville.



### **Grade 7 – English Language Arts**

I am Dawn Merrill. I am passionate about getting kids engaged in meaningful work that highlights their strengths and helps them grow. I am actively engaged in the Indianapolis community through my interests in gardens, reading, and not-for-profits. I have been married for 25 years to my great husband Paul. We have one son, Declan, who is a junior at Herron High School downtown.

### **Grade 7 – English Language Arts**

My name is Crystal Riley. I have been in education since 2009. I have taught theatre at Warren Central, theatre and reading at Harshman, 4th grade general studies at Vision Academy @ Riverside, 10th grade ELA at Warren, worked doing recruitment and discipline, was a library assistant and more! Outside of work I like to read, cuddle with my fur babies, travel to new places and try new things, go hiking, and hang out with my husband and friends.



In addition to the staff changes you just read about, at semester break we also had the following assignment changes. Ms. Amber Sweet, who was teaching PE/Health, moved into an 8<sup>th</sup> grade math co-teaching position with Ms. Cox and is providing support to our students with special services. Ms. Sweet assumed the role that was previously filled by Mr. Powell. Mr. Cummings continues to manage our athletics but is also assisting in 7<sup>th</sup> grade as a math teacher to assist with a current opening. Mr. Cummings previously taught middle school math and is able to assist our students this semester. Along with Mr. Cummings, our Permanent Building Guest Teacher, Ms. Bowman who is licensed in math as well, is teaching two blocks of 7<sup>th</sup> grade math.



Facebook –  
StonybrookMS

Twitter -  
@Stonybrook\_MS

### SMS Refrigerator Information

11300 Stonybrook Dr. Indianapolis, IN 46229

PH: 317-532-8800

Fax: 317-532-8899

Attendance Line: 317-532-8800 EXT. 1

School Nurse: 317-532-8806

School Hours: 7:30 AM – 2:50 PM

Transportation: 317-532-2820

District Office: 317-869-4300

#### **Principal:**

Mr. Nathan Day                      Phone: 317-532-8804                      Email: [nday@warren.k12.in.us](mailto:nday@warren.k12.in.us)

#### **Assistant Principal:**

Ms. Becky True                      Phone: 317-532-8805                      Email: [btrue@warren.k12.in.us](mailto:btrue@warren.k12.in.us)

#### **Dean:**

Mr. Lukas Muller                      Phone: 317-532-8808                      Email: [lmuller@warren.k12.in.us](mailto:lmuller@warren.k12.in.us)

#### **Counselor:**

Mrs. Melissa Nicholson                      Phone: 317-532-8811                      Email: [mnichol@warren.k12.in.us](mailto:mnichol@warren.k12.in.us)

#### **Athletic Coordinator**

Mr. Jeff Cummings                      Phone: 317-532-8800 \*8826                      Email: [jcumming@warren.k12.in.us](mailto:jcumming@warren.k12.in.us)

### **Dates to Remember:**

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> – Late Start (8:30 AM)

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter mid-term reports sent home

Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> – Family Math Night (5:00 PM – 7:00 PM)

Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> – WCHS Counselors Visit 8<sup>th</sup> Graders Regarding Scheduling

Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> – CORE Rewards -Valentine's Dance (1:30 PM – 2:30 PM)

Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> – Presidents Day – No School

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> – ISTEP+ Testing Begins

March 9<sup>th</sup> – End of quarter 3