

Southern Wells Junior-Senior High School Newsletter

Newsletter Date
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Kim Conner, Principal
Ben Burman, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director



Principal's News

It is my honor to introduce myself as the principal at Southern Wells Junior-Senior High School. In my first few weeks, I have met a lot of the great students, faculty and staff, parents, and community member. I'm excited for the future of our corporation. Our staff has been going thru training and working on our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports, or PBIS. We selected our acronym and are working on our expectations. Our Raiders are on FIRE. They are Forthright, Inclusive, Responsible, and Engaged. The next thing you will see that we roll out will be our positive praise postcards and Good Character Referrals. We have so many wonderful students that we want to take every opportunity to honor them.

I am looking to start a support group of parents and community members to help us with fundraising efforts for our entire student body. They would also assist with activities for our teachers and students. PIE² (Partners In Education) will meet once a month via Zoom. If you are interested in joining this group, please let Ms. Conner know at kconner@swraiders.com.

Everyone is doing a wonderful job with our Return to Learn plan. We are excited to be able to offer in-person instruction and hope to continue that practice. Our teachers have been very innovative with their instruction and making sure that everything is online for students as well in case of an absence. Parent teacher conferences will be October 15th and 19th from 3:30-7:00PM. They will be done virtually or via phone this year. Teachers will be reaching out to parents of students who have a D or F in the class to set-up a conference time. Anyone is welcome to request a conference with a teacher during those times by requesting a time slot from the teacher.

I look forward to having an opportunity to meet more parents and community members at our upcoming events. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any concerns or questions you may have.

Upcoming Dates

Oct. 12 - 16 Homecoming

Oct. 13 Picture Retake

Oct. 13 Grade Cards
Home—Seniors Only

Oct. 14 Grade Cards
Home

Oct. 14 PSAT Testing

Oct. 15 Parent Teacher
Conferences

Oct. 19 Parent Teacher
Conferences

Oct. 21- 22 Fall Break

PSAT Testing

- ◆ October 14, 2020
- ◆ All 9th, 10th, and 11th graders will test.
- ◆ 12th graders have an e-learning day with a career research paper.
- ◆ 7th & 8th Graders will attend two workshops during testing time.

FFA

Our FFA Chapter has been very busy and successful lately. Recently, they competed at the Area Soils Contest. Everyone placed very well individually as did our team. The students were able to hold a virtual fundraiser. The community raised enough money to support the chapter through the 2020-2021 school year. On October 2nd, they spent the day working on their community service project preparing some delicious chicken for the Chicken BBQ 2020. They sold over 1300 chickens and 1100 meals! The students spent weeks preparing for this event and a lot of extra hours to make it a success. FFA will be selling fruit very soon. Please see a member or call the school if interested in purchasing some for the holiday season. FFA would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all of its supporters for their outpouring of support so early in the 2020-2021 school year.

Nurse's Corner

If your child has any of the following symptoms, please do not send them to school, instead contact your healthcare provider.

1. **Fever 100.4 or chills**
2. **Sore Throat**
3. **Cough or Shortness of Breath** (new onset, uncontrolled cough)
4. **Diarrhea, Nausea or Vomiting, Abdominal Pain**
5. **Headache** (new onset, severe, especially with fever)
6. **New Loss of Taste or Smell**



Flu Season is coming soon, please get a flu vaccine!!

Band & Choir

Hello Raider Music Fans: We are so fortunate to have been blessed with the ability to resume face to face instruction in order to make music together. Early on in the pandemic it was widely believed that musicians were at much higher risk and potential to be “super spreaders” of the virus. Though it would logically make sense that by breathing deeper and pushing out more air and therefore potential droplets would put us at higher risk, I believed that with some common sense precautions, we could mitigate the risk and preserve our ability to express ourselves through music. I have noticed (knock on wood) no increase in absenteeism among our musicians. Some of the precautions included eliminating any class rehearsal techniques that included facing toward each other. Students are strongly encouraged to sanitize their hands upon entering the music room EVERY day. Anyone not feeling well is never chastised for excluding themselves from rehearsal or wearing a mask during class time to protect others from their breath and droplets. We look forward to hopefully being able to perform for an audience on November 2, 2020 in our Fall Concert at 7:30 PM in the High School Cafeteria.

“Even the smallest successes are worth celebrating.”

Our Fall Concert will include performances by the High School Choir, Junior High Choir, and the Junior High Band. All participants will be asked to either keep about a six-foot distance or wear masks upon entering the auditorium. Members of the same household should feel comfortable sitting closer together. If you are not feeling well you are encouraged to stay home. There will be other concerts provided we continue to proceed with caution. I very much look forward to being on stage again.

The High School Band will continue to perform at Home Football Games on the following dates. October 5th and 12th. Our young drumline is making strides every day in their abilities. I appreciate their efforts.

Parents and Students should continue to follow the EventLink.com calendar **SW Music**. HS Band members should add the **Boys Football** and **Basketball** calendar as well as the **Girls Basketball** calendar. Obviously follow the calendars of any other activities your student is involved in.

Finally, let me encourage patrons to get involved in our Music Booster Organization. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in the high school music. If anyone has questions about any of the information in this news item, feel free to email Mr. Haigh at mhaigh@swraiders.com.



Raider Athletics

The Athletic Department would like to thank all the parents, athletes, and spectators that have helped the fall sports seasons continue during these uncertain times. We have been blessed to have had very little COVID impact during the fall seasons, and the credit for that should go to the athletes, coaches, and parents. Thank you for continuing to follow the protocols set forth by the school and the health department. As our fall seasons conclude, we want to wish all the teams and athletes good luck as they compete in their end of season tournaments. We look forward to seeing all the hard work pay off!



Cafeteria

Dear Southern Wells Families,

Starting back on Sept 16 the USDA granted a waiver for all students to have free breakfast and lunches. This will last until the end of 2020 or till the money runs out. The only thing your student needs money for is ala cart. They cannot purchase anything extra if they have a negative lunch balance or no money in their acct. This would be a good time to clean up any negative balances on your students accts.

You must still fill out a free and reduced application if you would like to receive textbook assistance.

The **Breakfast program** is a great way to start your student's day. All they need to do is come to the cafeteria in the morning when they arrive at school. We start serving at 7:30 am. They can pick one entrée and a juice cup or fresh fruit and milk. This constitutes a free breakfast. They must pick a **fruit** to get the free breakfast otherwise we will just charge them ala cart for their purchase.

For **lunch** your student has 3 lunch options. 1st is the hot lunch which has a choice between two hot entrées. 2nd is a sack lunch option which is a peanut butter and jelly uncrustable, cheese stick and a bag of chips. 3rd is a chef salad option. With all 3 lunch options your student can choose a fruit, vegetable, grain and a milk. One of the choices must be a **fruit or veg**. They need to have 3 choices on their tray. If they don't have enough on their tray the cashier will advise them to go back and pick up more food or let them know they will be charged ala cart for their choices. They must have the fruit or veg on their tray and enough choices to get the free meal.

If you have not set up an acct with Titan, please do so. This is your only way to see what your student is purchasing every day. Go to the school's website at swraiders.com under quick links and you'll find Titan there and you can set up your acct. Then click on add student to put them on there.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please give me a call or email me. To contact me by phone just call the school and my extension is 1137. My email address is cmossburg@swraiders.com. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Congratulations to Mr. Butler for being a National Teachers Hall of Fame semi-finalist. We are proud to have him on staff in our Science department.

Guidance

The Guidance Department has scheduled the following virtual college visits:



Southern Wells
Jr/Sr High School
9120 S 300 W
Poneto, IN 46781

Phone:
(765) 728-5534

Fax:
(765) 728-8124

E-mail:
Kconner@swraiders.com

To provide an
exemplary
experience that
maximizes each
student's potential
in a safe,
innovative, and
nurturing
environment.

We're on the Web!
https://www.swraiders.com/southernwellsjuniorseniorthighschool_home.aspx

October 7	Grace College
October 14	Manchester University
October 28	Purdue University - Fort Wayne
November 4	Indiana University
November 11	UNOH

If you are interested in learning more about any of these colleges, bring your Chromebook and join us in the Media Center during homeroom.

Upcoming SAT dates:

November 7	registration deadline:	October 7
December 5	registration deadline:	November 5
March 13	registration deadline:	February 12
May 8	registration deadline:	April 8
June 5	registration deadline:	May 6

Scholarships

Seniors: The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can be completed beginning October 1st, 2020. It is **due** April 15, 2021. This is the MOST important thing you will need to complete to receive federal and/or state aid. It is beneficial to apply early because you will get information back sooner regarding how much it will **actually** cost to attend colleges in which you are interested. Do NOT look at what a college's advertised cost is! Almost all students receive some sort of financial assistance to attend. Yes, the FAFSA is something you must complete each year your child is in college. And, yes, it does require the student and parent financial information, with only a few exceptions. If you have questions about who the 'parent' is in regards to the FAFSA, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Rickerd.

While the FAFSA process seems a little overwhelming, it consists of just a few steps:

1. Both student and parent must register for an FSA id number at: studentaid.gov/fsaid
2. Complete the FAFSA at: studentaid.gov/fafsa. Tip: It is very helpful to use the IRS import tool to automatically fill in the required tax return information. For the 2020-21 school year, **you will use your 2019 tax return.**
3. Be certain to enter all colleges you are interested in attending on the FAFSA. That way, the school will automatically have all of your necessary information.
4. Apply to the colleges you are interested in. Upon acceptance, they will automatically notify you of what your financial aid to their institution will be. Generally speaking, it is wise to complete college applications by November 1st.
5. While colleges may pressure you to give a firm decision about attending, you do not need to do so per federal law until May 1st.

It should also be noted that many people believe they will not receive any federal or state aid so they should not bother completing the FAFSA. However, many **scholarships require a completed FAFSA to even be considered**, so the small time investment to complete a FAFSA is a wise decision. You have nothing to lose except a few hours of your time.

Lastly, the Guidance Department is in the process of scheduling a **FAFSA Night** at Southern Wells where you can get more specific questions answered. Please be on the lookout for this information. As always, NEVER hesitate to call Mr. Rickerd at the school or email him at mrickerd@swraiders.com. He is excited to help you in any way possible!