

COUGAR PRIDE!

SPRINGFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL
334 SUNSET AVE.
WILLIAMSPORT, MD 21795
Feb 2011

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR



Mark your Calendars!!

Spring Pictures will be taken on Thursday, April 7th, 2011. The profits from all school pictures are used to fund Honor Roll incentives and other materials to support instruction.

Spring Celebration - Thursday, May 12, 2011

Eighth Grade Celebration Save the Date

The Eighth Grade Celebration will be held on **Friday, May 27th at 7:00 P.M.** in the Williamsport High School Gymnasium. All attire must comply with the Board of Education dress code policy. No casual wear is permitted such as sneakers, jeans, or shorts. No floor length gowns or tuxedos are permitted. Dresses may not be strapless, backless, or have a bare midriff. A sweater, shawl, or wrap must be worn with spaghetti strap dresses throughout the evening. A dance will follow the celebration. The dance is only for SPMS 8th grade students. No guests are permitted.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK.....

January 18th was the last day of the first semester and the half-way point for students. Report cards were sent home with students on Friday, January 21, 2011.



Students continue to gear up for the Maryland State Math, Reading, and Science Assessments. The Maryland Reading Assessment will occur on Tuesday, March 8, and Wednesday, March 9. The Maryland Math Assessment will occur on Tuesday, March 15, and Wednesday, March 16. The Maryland Science Assessment is currently scheduled to be given in April. Please mark your calendar as we would like to have 100% attendance on these days.

It is important for all students to realize that low/failing grades during the first semester can result in failure for the year if they are unable to pull those grades up sufficiently to earn at least a 70% for the final grade. In order to help, the counselors have met with students who are in danger with their grades. The counselors will assist your child in developing goals for the remaining school year. If you would like to discuss your child's grades or progress, please call to arrange a conference with the team or an individual teacher. Homework planners are strongly encouraged in all grades; use it to communicate with the school and to keep you aware of class requirements. Assistant Principals will be meeting with students in danger of being retained and letters will be sent to parents.

We have started a new schedule on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the months of January and February. The new Period 2.5 has been developed for intervention and enrichment opportunities. MSA is approaching and we need to be sure that all students are prepared. Last year we did not meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and with very little time left to prepare students we decided to create time for interventions and provide enrichment. We are also infusing test taking strategies. We hope to have more students scoring proficient and advanced this school year.

NBA (No Bullying Allowed) Zone time continues on Wednesdays each week. We are happy to announce a reduction in referrals and bullying behavior.

The weather can be a problem at this time of year. For information on school closings and delays, please listen to the radio or call the SCHOOL TALK line at 301-714-0317, Ext 2665, or access the web site at www.WCBOE.K12.MD.US. Cable channel 99 also broadcasts current delays and closings.

I encourage you to look at the listing of scheduled events in this newsletter to be sure you don't miss anything upcoming here at school. We have lots of things going on at SPMS!

Mrs. Jennifer Ruppenthal, Principal

Attention all 8th graders and parents/guardians!

You are strongly encouraged to attend the **High School Transition night** on Wednesday, February 2nd at 6:30 PM in the Willimasport High School auditorium. No RSVP required.

The **high school counselors will be visiting** your math classes on February 7th or 8th to talk to you about your schedule for next year. You will be picking your classes during this time!

To help you get started, here are a few basic high school terms that you must be familiar with:

**Refer to the 2011-2012 High School Program of Studies book for specific program details (available this Spring)*

Semester- High schools have 2 semesters in a school year. 4 classes are taken in the first semester. 4 different classes are taken the second semester. At the end of the year, you have the chance to have taken a total of 8 different classes.

Credit- "Point" earned for a passing grade of a 70% or higher (one passed class = one credit). You must retake classes that you do not pass. 24 credits are needed to graduate from high school. See below for a list of the required credits for graduation. Credits **MUST** be earned in the following areas;

Area	# of credits/classes
English	4 Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits
Math	4 Credits
Science	3 Credits
Fine Arts	1 Credit
Tech. Ed.	1 Credit
Phys. Ed.	1 Credit
Health/Life Skills	1 Credit
Electives	6 Credits
Total:	24 Credits

Completer- Another word for the track, or group of classes that you take in high school. Every student must have a completer to graduate. It is possible, and worthwhile to earn more than one completer!

There are two types of completer programs:

- A) **University of Maryland Completer** (College track)- As a part of your 24 graduation credits- you must take two credits of a foreign language, and take up to at least Algebra 2. This does not mean that you have to go to the Univ. of Maryland! This completer helps to prepare you for college in general.
- B) **Career and Technology Completer** (Career track)- Specific courses that focus on a particular career. There are MANY career tracks to choose from (for example, accounting or agriculture).

Student Service Learning Hours (S.S.L.)- Documented volunteer work done outside of the school day. 75 S.S.L. hours are required to graduate. Do not wait until your senior year to start working on your S.S.L. hours!

High School Assessments (H.S.A.)- Tests that you must pass, or reach a combined overall score in order to graduate. These tests are similar to the M.S.A.'s. H.S.A.'s are taken in English 10, Government, Algebra 1, and Biology.

***Additional Educational Options Include: Career Academics, Washington County Technical High School, and the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts. Visit the WCBOE website for more details <http://www.wcboe.k12.md.us>**

Counseling Center News

Students are now into the second half of the school year. It is important to review grades and expectations to complete the school year on a successful note.

Grade 8- Many important dates and events are coming up for grade 8.

On Tuesday February 2 at 6:30, Williamsport High School will be hosting a Transition to High School meeting. This is for all 8th grade students and their parents. Please plan on attending to get important information about the high school scheduling process.

On February 7 and 8 the Williamsport High school counselors will be meeting with all 8th graders during Math classes to go over high school courses and course selections.

All 6th and 7th grade ELA classes have been in the computer lab to access the online career exploratory program, Bridges. All students created an online portfolio that can be accessed at home and school at www.bridges.com. Students will be using this program throughout middle school and high school.



Please sign up for the Martin's A+ School Rewards Program if you

haven't already. So far \$567.98 has been designated to our school as a result of your support. Thank you!



The Coke Points Program is off to a great start. So far we have collected 2243 points toward our goal. Keep sending in those Coke, Sprite, and Powerade caps. We are hoping to reach 10,000 points by April 30th.



News from the Student Achievement Specialists

From Mrs. Siebert, Math SAS ...

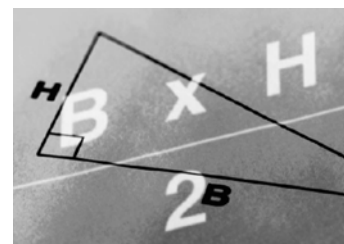
Math Benchmark 3 All students have completed their third math benchmark. Scores will be available in Performance Matters after January 18th. Use your parent access to check out your child's score or contact your child's math teacher.

MSA After School Program There is a separate after school program for Math (Thursdays) and English/Language Arts (Mondays). If your child did not receive an invitation and you question whether your child should be in the program, then please call Mrs. Harpster or Mrs. Siebert to get more information.

Math BM4 Expect us to be ready for BM4 on or about February 18th.



Our sixth grade 24 Club meets on Mondays after school from 2:30 - 3:30 P.M. If your child is interested, have them see Mrs. Kline for a permission slip. Only sixth graders participate in the county competition.



answers. Look for misread directions or careless errors.

Math MSA Test Taking Tips

1. Carefully read all directions for the test.
2. Do a mind dump. Make notes on the scrap paper of anything you think you might forget. Write down formulas, reminders, and any mnemonic sayings you have to help you remember.
3. Write legibly on BCR and ECR questions so the grader can read what you wrote.
4. Bubble in the answer neatly making sure the bubble is filled in completely.
5. Always read the whole question carefully and look for keywords. Make sure to answer all parts of the questions and remember that some short answer questions have multiple parts.
6. Answer easy questions first. Skip the hard ones and go on.
7. Go back to the difficult questions after you have finished the test. Circle keywords to help you better understand the question. Later items on the test may have given you useful information to go back and complete earlier items.
8. For tough questions, try to eliminate any unreasonable answer choices. Consider working backwards by trying the choices back into the problem.
9. If you are unsure of an answer, go with your first choice unless you are absolutely sure your first choice is wrong.
10. Budget your time carefully. If you finish ahead of time, go back and check your

S a v e T h e D a t e s

March 8, 9 - MSA Reading

March 15, 16- MSA Math

April 5 - 8 - MSA Science

April 5th&6th Mr. B's classes

April 7th& 8th Mrs. Mills' classes

May 18 - Algebra I HSA

All PreAlgebra 8 and Merit & Magnet Algebra classes will take the HSA.

May 24 - Final Exam for

Merit&Magnet Algebra &

Merit&Magnet Geometry

(Snow date is June 1st.)

Please do not schedule any appointments on these days without checking testing times.

MATHCOUNTS

Our MathCounts team continues to practice for the Regional Competition on **Saturday, February 26th** at E. Russell Hicks Middle School. The top scoring teams and individuals from this competition move on to the state competition.

ELA News



Mrs. Harpster

The ELA After-School Program is still meeting every Monday from 2:30-3:30. Our last meeting will be Monday, March 7th. Parents interested in their child attending should contact their ELA teacher or Mrs. Harpster, the Literacy SAS.

Spelling Bee Winners



Congratulations to the following students for their performance during our School Spelling Bee:

	<i>Grade 6</i>	<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
1 st	Camille Levine	Christie Bennett	Alec Cantner
2 nd	Spencer Cutter	Hadley Giles	Eric Poffenberger

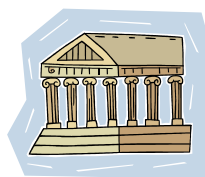
25 BOOK CHALLENGE

Please encourage your child to read independently at home for the 25 book challenge. Students are awarded prizes for meeting goals of the challenge.

Reading MSA Test Taking Tips

Reading MSA dates are March 8 and 9th! Here are some tips to keep in mind on the days of the test:

- ☑ **Read the title of the passage.** It will give you a clue about the main idea.
- ☑ **Read the questions before actually reading the passage!** (Skip the answer choices for now.) Now you will know what information to look for and underline while reading!
- ☑ **Scan the passage, look at the pictures and read any captions.**
- ☑ **READ the passage for the first time and underline important words and phrases.**
 - Look for key words related to the questions you have to answer.
 - There is a lot of information in the first couple of sentences in a passage!
- ☑ **Reread the question and read ALL the answer choices.**
- ☑ **For Tough Questions:**
 1. Eliminate wrong or unreasonable answer choices.
 2. Refer back to the passage.
 3. Make your best guess.
- ☑ **For Constructed Responses remember to:**
 - Think before you start writing.
 - Answer the question being asked.
 - Use details from the text to support your answer.



Root Words of the
Week

To encourage knowledge of words and increase vocabulary, we are highlighting a different root word each week. The words are read on the morning announcements and displayed around the school. Ask your child how many words they can think of that include the week's root word!

Week	Root/Affix	Definition	Word Examples
1/31-2/4	Viv or vit	Live	Survive, vivacious
2/7-2/11	Carn	Flesh, meat	Carnivorous, carnivore
2/14-2/18	Scope	See, look, examine	Telescope, microscope
2/22-2/25	Graph or gram	To write, draw, record	Paragraph, telegram
2/28-3/4	Leg	Law	Legal, legitimate

American Legion Essay Contest: This year's theme is *How Can I Encourage My Friends to Show Pride in Being an American?* Cash prizes are awarded! Essay deadline is Feb. 1, 2011. Interested students should see their ELA teacher for more information



What's happening in classes?



Math 6 We are finishing up our Geometry unit on angles, triangles and quadrilaterals. Our next unit is Measurement. The three new skills in this unit are the area of triangles, volume of a prism, and finding the circumference of a circle.

Merit & Magnet Math 6 After integers, we will focus on solving equations and inequalities. This is a huge unit for us to prepare us for Merit Math 7. Then Unit 12 focuses on Measurement. Our topics include area of parallelograms, triangles, trapezoids, and composite figures. We will also include circle vocabulary, circumference of a circle and volume of a prism.

6th grade ELA

In this unit, students will analyze writer's craft through the use of mood, tone, and style and the importance of choosing the right words to express ideas clearly and accurately. Students will also focus on the language of poetry and express the ways poets use words to create images and communicate ideas. While students are reading poetry and other literary text, they will master the skill of writing a descriptive poem, selecting words that will reinforce the desired tone of their writing. Students will also review effective test-taking strategies in preparation for MSA, they will master the skill of writing a well organized essay by focusing on revising sentences to correct sentence fragments and run-on sentences that include effective transitional words to communicate the compare/contrast organization of their essay.

6th Grade: Marking Period 4 Homework Planner

During Marking Period 4 Springfield offers a combination of ELA and Math enrichment and review. Students, who are in need of reviewing their ELA and math skills, will refresh their skills with mini lessons and practice provided through the UA/RA program. In addition, students who have already mastered the skills have the opportunity to be challenged with enrichment work that promotes critical thinking. Springfield is excited about this opportunity and the UA/RA teachers look forward to unfolding the Homework Planner session.



Math 7 Unit 11 continues solving and writing equations and inequalities that was introduced last year. Students will be solving equations and inequalities with fractions and decimals. We are looking for computational accuracy as well as a correct solution method. Unit 12 is all about Measurement. Our topics include area of parallelograms, triangles and trapezoids. We will identify parts of a circle and find its circumference.

Merit & Magnet Math 7 Unit 11 focuses on solving and writing equations and inequalities. This unit is very important for our students who are headed for Honors Algebra I next year! Unit 12 is titled Linear Functions and Equations. We will start with arithmetic and geometric sequences, learn about two variable equations, and then graph these equations. We will finish the unit with slope and scatterplots.

7th grade ELA

In this unit, students will learn how appreciating poetry can open doors to understanding not only the poet's experiences,

but their own experiences. Students will analyze how poets use special forms and techniques to create images that express ideas and perceptions. Students will use the writing process to create and write various types of poetry that maintain a consistent tone. Students will also learn to use comparative and superlative modifiers correctly. Also in this unit, students will participate in various test-taking and skill review activities using informational and literary genres.

7th Grade Social Studies

The 2nd benchmark exam will be given sometime towards the end of January. Students will receive study guides to help them prepare for the exam. Also, on December 21st we had two guest speakers visit with the 7th grade. Dr. Chip Zimmer and Mr. Jack Myers, both of the WWII Roundtable, discussed with students the significance of the Second World War. Mr. Myers shared his personal account of the war and also brought along many of his own artifacts for students to see. Dr. Chip Zimmer shared items his father had brought back home after the war ended. Both answered questions that students had and allowed students to look at the flags, boots, medals, and other items they brought in. Please take time to ask your child about this once in a lifetime experience.

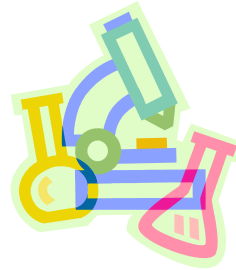
7th Grade Homework Hotline

Attention Parents!

You can access Springfield Middle's Homework Hotline in one of two ways:

1. Call 301-766-8402 and press 2 for the 7th grade. Any homework assigned for the evening will be listed according to the teacher's name. Listen for your child's teachers and their class sections.
2. Sign up for our new email Homework Hotline. To subscribe to this daily email, send a message with the subject Homework Hotline to crabtemi@wcboe.k12.md.us and you will be added to our mailing list. You may do this from each address to which you would like the message delivered.

process to create and write various types of poetry that maintain a consistent tone. While reading and writing, student will demonstrate their understanding of subordinating conjunctions to create complex sentences. In this unit, students will also review effective test-taking strategies and skill review activities using literary and informational genres. Students will also review effective test-taking strategies in preparation for MSA.



Honors & Magnet Algebra After our probability and statistics unit we will complete two short units, one on geometry and one on measurement to address these objectives that are not included within the Algebra I curriculum. After these we will focus on systems of equations in Chapter 7.

Honors & Magnet Geometry We are in the middle of Chapter 7, Right triangles and Trigonometry. Next is Chapter 8, Quadrilaterals.

Its Science Fair Time!!

Science fair information has been handed out to all merit & magnet students. The due dates & specific additional requirements vary by teacher.

Due dates:

- 6th grade - Mrs. Clark April 14
Mr. Thoerig April 15
- 7th grade - Mrs. Rohrer March 4
Mr. Higy March 15
- 8th grade - Mr. Bartholomew April 4
Mrs. Mills April 15



8th grade ELA

In this unit, students will learn more about the techniques that poets use to make their works masterpieces. Students will analyze how elements of style contribute to tone and voice to create a writer's unique imprint. This exploration will occur through a variety of poetic forms and may extend into a variety of other genres including fiction, drama, media, and literary nonfiction. In addition, students will explore their own thoughts by using the writing



NURSE'S CORNER

Mrs. Lescalleet LPN
Mrs. Lewis RN

Wash Hands – One of the most common methods of passing germs is through contact with hands. Washing your hands frequently especially after visiting public

places, will decrease the spread of germs to your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Emergency Cards – Please call to update your child's Emergency Cards if your phone numbers or employment changes.

Medications – Students may not carry medications with them during the school day. This includes over the counter medicines. Medications must be brought to the health room in original labeled containers by a parent or adult with a doctor's medication order form.



FROM THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT:

Physical Education Classes

Currently in Physical Education we have entered our winter rotation of activities. Students will be participating in basketball, table tennis, weight training, and miniature golf from now until mid March. All classes are expected to be changing their clothes for Physical Education class. Each non dress grade that a student receives will result in a loss of 10 points from their daily grade. There are 20 points possible each day grade after the third non dress will also result in a lunch detention.

ELKS HOOP SHOOT



The Elks Hoop Shoot for 2011 will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2011 (snow date is Saturday, January 29, 2011) at Williamsport High School. All participants must be there at their scheduled registration time. All participants must also bring a valid birth certificate to assure their participation in the

event. If participants do not have a birth certificate at registration they will not be allowed to participate in the competition.

Winners representing Springfield Middle School are:

Cierra Beaver - Girls 10-11 years old winner
Kate Wade - Girls 12-13 years old winner
Trey Davis - Boys 10-11 years old winner
Carter Hughes - Boys 12-13 years old winner
Good luck to all of our participants representing Springfield Middle!!!!



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES:

- January 26: Full Band, Chorus, and Orchestra Rehearsal Day
- February 16: Full Band, Chorus, and Orchestra Rehearsal Day
- March 17: Full Band, Chorus, and Orchestra Rehearsal Day
- April 6: Full Band, Chorus, and Orchestra Rehearsal Day
- May 4: 8th Grade Bowling and Skating Field Trip
- May 5: 7th Grade Bowling and Skating Field Trip
- May 6: 6th Grade Bowling and Skating Field Trip

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 1 STARS breakfast, 7:00 AM
February 2 8th Grade Transition Night at Williamsport
High t 6:30 PM
February 5 All County Band Concert
February 10 Grade 7 & 8 Show Choir-Dinner & Show
February 11 Student Govt Dance 2:30-4:30
February 21 President's Day-Schools & Central Office closed
February 24 "Paw Showcase"-7th Grade Skits & Plays-7:00 PM
February 26 Math Counts Competition at ER Hicks
- March 4 End of MP 4---2 ½ Early Dismissal
March 5 All County Band & Orchestra Festival
March 8 MSA Reading test
March 9 MSA Reading test
March 12 SAT Test
March 15 MSA Math test
March 16 MSA Math test
March 19 All County Vocal/Piano Festival
March 22 STARS Breakfast, 7:00 AM
March 28 Middle School Band Festival @ North High
March 29 Middle School Orchestra Festival @ North High
March 30 Middle School Chorus Festival @ South High