



The Patriot Times

Sweetwater Middle School

3500 Cruse Road

Lawrenceville, Georgia 30045

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Mr. Jay Nebel, Principal

A Message from our Principal, Jay Nebel



Greetings, Sweetwater Families, Friends, and Community!

Time certainly moves quickly; it's hard to believe that we have already welcomed students back from Summer Break and that it's Fall already! I am excited to report that our school year has begun as a very successful one. This means that I must say THANK YOU to all of you; without you, we would not be able to be a successful school. Your support of Sweetwater Middle School is one of our greatest strengths. As you know, I tell our students every day that I am proud to be their principal, and I mean that. I tell them that they are Gwinnett County's best kids, and I mean that, too. Your students are wonderful, and serving them each day brings me great joy. As I've told you before, it is the honor of my life to be your child's principal and to serve our amazing community.

I want you to know that our school is still receiving results from the district and the state on last year's performance, and the results are excellent! On the state of Georgia's Milestones exams, our students performed well; in many subjects we achieved at a record rate for Sweetwater Middle School. In 8th grade, we achieved our highest-ever scores in science, math, language arts, and social studies. In both 6th and 7th grade we had our highest-ever scores in language arts and in math. As a result of our students' strong performance, we have seen our school rating rise significantly, both in the eyes of Gwinnett County Public Schools and the state of Georgia.

Our student behavior remains a source of pride. In fact, the state of Georgia has recognized us as a Distinguished school! Only six Gwinnett County schools earned this level of achievement from the state of Georgia. This measure of our school's atmosphere, climate, and dedication to providing our kids with a world-class

experience is a source of great pride for us and for our community. Being a state of Georgia Distinguished school is a big deal! Our kids are amazing!

We are excited to see the increases in our school's overall score from the state and from the county. This progress in academics and in student behavior tells us that we are successfully keeping an eye on our core business of teaching and learning. Thank you for supporting us and helping us make steady gains!

As the year progresses, there are things that you can do to help ensure your kid's success. Please make sure that your student does the following things on an everyday basis. First, make sure your child attends school every day. Students learn best when they are here at Sweetwater! Next, make sure your child reads at home every night. Student literacy is the number one indicator of future success. And finally, have academic conversations nightly with your child. Look in your child's agenda book. Ask your child what he/she did each day and then ask your child to tell you what he/she learned!

Please feel free to reach out to me and to visit the school at any time. This is, after all, YOUR school. Look for opportunities to come to Sweetwater and to be a part of your child's experience and our school's success; we hope to see you soon. Early Release conferences take place on October 23rd and 24th. Let us know if you want a conference with your teachers!

Please let me know if you have questions on how I may serve you and your child better. All the best!



Your Proud Principal,
Jay Nebel
Sweetwater Middle School

October Calendar of Events

- 10/1 – Canned Food Drive Begins
- 10/2 – Scoliosis Screening
- 10/3 – GCPS Parent Advisory Council – 5:30 PM
- 10/4 – Parent Teacher Conference Letters sent home
- 10/4 – 6th grade Walk and Talk
- 10/8-9 – 8th Grade Interims
- 10/ 11-14 – Fall Break
- 10/16 – PSAT for 8th Grade
- 10/17-18 – 6th and 7th Grade Interims
- 10/18 – 7th and 8th grade Walk and Talk
- 10/21 – Student Picture Day
- 10/22 – **Math Parent Night - 6:30 PM** –
Light Refreshments served
- 10/23-10/24 – Early Release Days
- 10/24 – Hispanic Month Movie Celebration –Pelé
- 10/25- PBIS Store
- 10/26 – Great Days of Service
- 10/31 – Coffee with the Principal

Clubs and Activities at SMS

Here is a listing of Sweetwater Middle School Clubs and Activities:

Purposefully Created – 8AM Sponsor Ms. Marshall – 1st and 3rd Mondays

Relay for Life – Mondays – 8AM Mrs. Sorensen

ESOL Study Hall – 8AM - Mon-Friday Ms. Clark and Mrs. Hinderleider

Boys Basketball – 4:30 PM -Mr. Gwynn – Monday – Friday

Campus Life – Tuesdays – 7:50 AM – Gym – Mrs. Koser

Soccer Club – Tuesdays and Thursdays – 4:30pm–6:00pm - Mr. Thompson

Sweetwater Singers – Tuesday-Thursday – 8AM Ms. Montgomery and Ms. Nelson

Fitness Club – Tuesdays -Coach Kidder – 4:30 PM

Yearbook – Tuesday and Friday – 8AM – Mr. Leopard and Mr. Kim

Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character – 8AM – Mrs. Loken and Mrs. Romo - Tuesdays

Jr. Beta Club – Bi monthly – Mrs. Smith

Football – Tuesdays – Cleveland – 4:30pm

Stemchicas – Wednesdays – 8:10 Mrs. Torres & Mrs. Estrada-Bailey

Peer Leaders/Scholarship Club – Wednesdays -Bi-monthly – Mr. Genaro and Mr. Claypole – 4:30pm

Girl Scouts – Wednesdays -Bi-monthly – Dr. Harris 4:30pm

First Lego League – Wednesday and Thursday – Mr. Oce and Mr. Mitchell – 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Art and Languages Around the World – Wednesdays - Mrs. Falu, Ms. Perkins, Mrs. Rodriguez – 8AM

D&D (Dungeons and Dragons) Wednesdays – Ms. French – 8AM

Crafty Crew – Wednesdays – Ms. Duliman

Spanish Club – Wednesdays – Mrs. Torres

Urban Sketchers – Wednesdays – Mrs. Miller

Adapted Cheerleaders – Wednesday and Friday – 8AM – Mrs. Santos

Literary Magazine – Thursdays – Bi-monthly – 8AM – Ms. Davis, Ms. Clark, and Ms. Bashiri

Reader's Rally – Thursdays – 8AM- Mrs. LeSueur and Mrs. Smith

Chess Club – Thursdays – 8am - Mr. Neal

The Jump Rope Club -8AM– Fridays - Mr. Hartnett and Mr. Hood

The Prism Club – 8AM – Fridays - Ms. Unruh, Hastings, Pickering, and Mr. Ejike

The Korean Club – 8AM – Ms. Greeson - Fridays



October Volunteer Activities at Sweetwater Middle School.

Scoliosis Screening – 10/4 – 8:30 AM

Math Night – 10/22 – 5:30 PM

PBIS Store – 10/25 – 9:30 AM

Great Days of Service -10/26 – 9AM

Parenting Tip for October

Have your teen put math to practical use

One way to support your teen's efforts in math is to show him/her how useful it is in everyday life. You are probably interested in the average monthly amount you spend on groceries, for example. Tell your teen how much you budget for food. Then give your child your receipts. Have your child calculate the average of your actual spending each month and compare it to your budget. Suggest he/she make a chart that shows the difference.



Hispanic Heritage Month Tributes

Mexican artist Frida Kahlo - remembered for her self-portraits, pain and passion, and bold, vibrant colors. She is celebrated in Mexico for her attention to Mexican and indigenous culture and by feminists for her depiction of the female experience and form.

Actress Laura Gomez – is a Dominican actress, speaker, writer, and director. Gómez is best known for her portrayal of the character Blanca Flores in the Netflix series *Orange Is the New Black*.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor - serves as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. She was appointed by President Barack Obama in May 2009 and confirmed that August. She was the first Hispanic and Latina Supreme Court Justice.

Civil Rights Activist Cesar Chavez – was an American labor leader and Latino American civil rights activist. Along with Dolores Huerta, he co-founded the National Farm Workers Association, later renamed the United Farm Workers union.

Author Isabelle Allende – is a Chilean writer. Allende, whose works sometimes contain aspects of the genre magical realism, is known for novels such as *The House of the Spirits* and *City of the Beasts*, which have been commercially successful.

Dr. Concha Gomez - is an [Italian](#) and [Cuban-American](#) mathematician. She is a professor of mathematics at [Diablo Valley College](#). Gómez is known for being one of the co-founders of the women's organization *The Noetherian Ring* at the [University of California Berkeley](#) in 1991 while attending as a doctoral student. She is an advocate for diversity in the STEM fields.

Roberto Clemente – was a Puerto Rican professional baseball right fielder who played 18 seasons in Major League Baseball for the Pittsburgh Pirates. He was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1973, becoming both the first Latin American and Caribbean player to be enshrined.

Dr. Richard Tapia – is a Mexican American mathematician and professor in the Department of Computational and Applied Mathematics at Rice University in Houston, Texas. He is internationally known for his research in the computational and mathematical sciences and is a national leader in education and outreach.

Dr. Mario J. Molina - is a Mexican chemist known for his pivotal role in the discovery of the Antarctic ozone hole. He was a co-recipient of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his role in elucidating the threat to the Earth's ozone layer of chlorofluorocarbon gases.

Dr. Ellen Ochoa - is a Hispanic-American engineer, former astronaut and former Director of the Johnson Space Center. Ochoa became director of the center upon the retirement of the previous director, Michael Coats, on December 31, 2012.

Pele' - a Brazilian retired professional football player is widely regarded as one of the greatest players of all time. In 1999, he was voted [World Player of the Century](#) by the [International Federation of Football History & Statistics](#) (IFFHS), and was one of the two joint winners of the [FIFA Player of the Century](#) award.

Roberto Duran - is a [Panamanian](#) former [professional boxer](#) who competed from 1968 to 2001. He held world championships in 4 weight classes.

Senator Catherine Cortez Masto is an American attorney and politician serving as the [senior United States Senator](#) from [Nevada](#), in office since 2017. A member of the [Democratic Party](#), she previously served as the 32nd [Attorney General of Nevada](#). She is of Italian and Mexican descent.

Author **Sandra Cisneros** is a Mexican American writer best known for her first novel *The House on Mango Street* and her subsequent short story collection *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories*. She is the recipient of numerous awards including a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, was awarded one of 25 new Ford Foundation Art of Change fellowships in 2017, and is regarded as a key figure in [Chicana literature](#).^[2]