



Message from the Principal

Dear Families:

As we begin our 2010 – 2011 school year together, I want to express my gratitude to all staff, students and parents who through many hours of discourse created a flexible schedule. The new schedule offers quarter flexibility to meet the diverse needs of our students. I truly feel honored to be part of the South Orangetown community and most importantly our *Middle School Family*.

We all know that the middle school years are a unique phase in our children's intellectual, social and emotional growth. The entire staff is committed in continuing its efforts to create an exceptional middle school where adolescents become successful academically while developing emotionally and socially. Middle school is a time of constant change and growth. Teachers, peers and society play major roles in a child's education; but parents are a child's first teachers, and home is a child's first classroom. I would ask that you consider taking the ***Parent's Pledge*** that is printed on page four of this newsletter. If you would like to publicly acknowledge the pledge, there will be a poster size sheet in the Main Lobby during Meet the Teachers nights on Wednesday, September 22nd for sixth grade parents and Thursday, September 30th for seventh and eighth grade parents. Please stop by and sign your name. You will be able to read the pledge taken by the staff as well. We are a team with exceptional potential as long as we continually work together and communicate with one another.

The building tour for incoming sixth graders and all new entrants will take place on **Thursday, August 26 at 9:00 am**. Please park in the Erie Street parking lot, enter through the back middle doors and meet the Guidance counselors in the cafeteria.

Enclosed you will also find your child's schedule for the 2010 - 2011 school year. I look forward to celebrating our school's success and watching our students mature over the years. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen A. Tesik

Mrs. Karen A. Tesik

Principal

Message from the Assistant Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am the new assistant principal at SOMS. My experiences in education includes serving as a middle school teacher/dean, high school assistant principal, and district Director of Instruction. I hope to utilize this knowledge to support and supplement the impressive educational opportunities provided to the students at the middle school.

I am very excited to join such a talented and supportive school community. As you are aware, middle school is a critical and challenging period of development for students. As they transition from childhood to adulthood, it is vital that we work together to successfully meet the individual academic, social and emotional needs of each student.

I look forward to meeting and working collaboratively with the staff, students and families of SOMS to ensure a successful and rewarding school year for all.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Neidhart
Richard J. Neidhart
Assistant Principal

When the dismissal bell rings...



Clubs offer great opportunities to try something new, make new friends and to pursue different areas of interest you enjoy. The following is a list of clubs that will be offered in the fall:

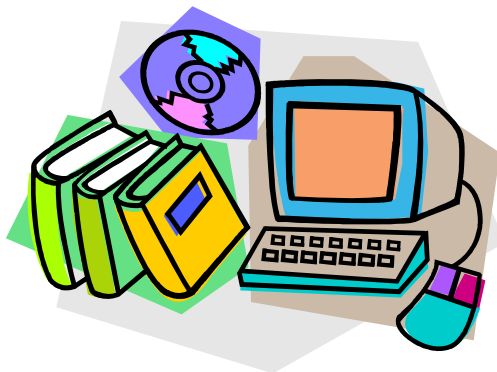
Art, Art for Publication (SOJOURN), **Creative Writing**, Digital Media, **French**, Go Green and Crafty, **Health and Fitness**, Italian, **Leo**, Math Olympiad, **Robotics**, SADD, **Science Olympiad – Life Science**, Science Olympiad – Physical Science, **Science Olympiad – Technology Science**, SOMS American Idol, **Spanish**, Stage Production and **Writing for Publication (SOJOURN)**

Look out for the Clubs brochure distributed in September for descriptions of the various clubs, advisors, meeting days and locations. Reminders with specific meetings dates are posted in the written announcements daily. **Join a club, bring a friend, get involved!**

ATTENTION ALL SEVENTH GRADERS

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

For students interested in being considered for induction into the National Junior Honor Society, applications will be made available during the second quarter. Listen to announcements or periodically look on the SOMS webpage for specific information on meeting requirements and deadlines.



**The 2010 – 2011 School Year Is Upon Us!
The First Day of School is
Tuesday, September 7, 2010
7:35 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.**

Sixth Grade Students will report to the gym

Seventh Grade Students will report to the auditorium

Eighth Grade Students will report to the cafeteria

**IMPORTANT: First Period begins at 7:35 a.m.
PLEASE be on time to your first period class.**



Meet the Teacher Nights

**Grade 6: Wednesday, September 22, 2010
6:45 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

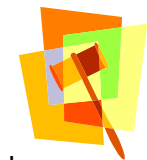
**Grades 7 and 8: Thursday, September 30, 2010
6:45 p.m. – 9 p.m.**



Please make every effort to attend this event. We will start the evening in the cafeteria and then you will follow your child's schedule. Mrs. Karen Tesik and Mr. Richard Neidhart will be available for any questions you might have.



Student Leadership



Membership in Student Government at SOMS in the 2010 - 2011 school year will be open to any students who wish to volunteer. Regular meetings will be held after school. Additional meetings will take place during the school day as needed. In November the members who have attended consistently and actively participated will elect officers for the Student Government.



❖ Please check with your child and make sure they are prepared for physical education classes. They will be swimming at different times of the year and will need to come prepared for class.

❖ If your child is purchasing lunch, please be sure they have money. Prepaying for lunch is a great idea – mark your calendar so you will know when you need to pay again. Students get reminders but many reminders never make it home.



**Prices for School Lunch Effective
September 2010:**

**SOMS Lunch \$2.25 with Milk only; other items
sold ala carte.**



Middle School Activities



Our fall sports are extensive. Students should check with the physical education teachers or listen to daily announcements for all the details. For further information, please contact our Director of Athletics, Mr. Liam Frawley at 680-1640 or 680-1641.



Note from our School Nurse



Any student in grades 7 and 8 who are planning to participate in Fall Sports and have not had physicals through SOMS will have a final opportunity in August. Please be aware that even if you have had a physical through your pediatrician, a school-designated doctor must approve your participation. This may delay your availability to begin practice. Students who had physicals in the School Nurse's office this past June and were cleared for participation do not have to report in August. A physical performed by your family physician is acceptable; **however**, it must be turned in to the TZHS nurse to be co-signed by the district physician. This is a NYS law. **Please contact the Athletic Office at (845) 680-1640 or 1641 if you have any questions.**

Did you know?

- ❖ SOMS will again have a professional security person stationed at the front entrance of the building. This person will be responsible for monitoring people entering the building. We are upgrading our security procedures and policies. SOMS is a busy place and with these actions it will continue to be a safe place for all.
- ❖ **SMARTBoards** are whiteboards with an internet connection that allow teachers to plan interactive lessons for students. For example, teachers can download educational websites from the World Wide Web; then they can manipulate words, figures, pictures, etc. with the touch of a finger. Thanks to the Board of Education more SMARTBoards have arrived this summer.

- ❖ **Laptop carts** are now available to each teacher to use as part of their differentiated lessons. Thanks to South Orangetown Central School District.
- ❖ Many of our teachers have been very busy working on curriculum projects over the summer. These projects will enhance student instruction throughout incoming school year.

Save the Date

Zee-Nite
Saturday, September 25, 2010
Tappan Zee High School Main Field

Parent's Corner



PARENT'S PLEDGE

1. I want my child to have the best possible education and I realize that strong school systems are essential.
2. I will provide a home environment that will encourage my child to learn.
3. I will help my child build a small but meaningful home library.
4. I will insist that all homework assignments are done each night.
5. I will discuss at dinnertime what my child has learned at school each day.
6. I will include stimulating books among the presents I give my child.
7. I will review newspaper stories and television newscasts with my child and discuss how the news may affect our lives.
8. I will communicate regularly with my child's teachers.
9. I will remind my child of the necessity of discipline in the classroom especially self-discipline.
10. I will help my child appreciate and enjoy the excitement in learning and the thrill of an inquiring mind.

**IMPORTANT UPCOMING
DATES/EVENTS/ACTIVITIES**



Thurs	Aug. 26	9:00 AM	Tour of Building for 6 th graders and other new entrants
Tues	Sept. 7	7:35 AM – 2:20 PM	First Day of School
Wed	Sept. 8	2:30 PM	SOMS Fall Modified Sports begin
Thurs - Fri Sept. 9 – 10		Rosh Hashanah – School Closed	
Sat	Sept. 11	Patriot Day	
Sun	Sept. 12	Grandparent's Day	
Thurs	Sept. 16	7:30 PM	BOE Meeting @ SOMS Room 165
Fri	Sept. 17	Citizenship Day	
Sat	Sept. 18	Yom Kippur	
Tues	Sept. 21	7:30 PM	SOMS PTA Meeting – Library
Wed	Sept. 22	6:45 PM – 9:00 PM	Meet the Teacher Night GRADE 6 ONLY
Thurs	Sept. 23	First Day of Autumn	
Fri	Sept. 24	7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	PTA Grade 6 Welcome Social
Sat	Sept. 25	Zee Nite at TZHS – All Day Activities	
Wed	Sept. 29	1:40 PM – 2:20 PM	Building Level Team Meeting (BLT)
Thurs	Sept. 30	6:45 PM – 9:00 PM	Meet the Teacher Night GRADES 7 and 8 ONLY
October is MONTH OF THE ADOLESCENT (MOYA)			
Thurs	Oct. 7	7:30 PM	BOE Meeting @ SOMS Room 165
Fri	Oct 8	Superintendent's Conference Day Half Day for Students – SOMS Dismissal 10:32 AM	
Mon	Oct. 11	Columbus Day Observed – School Closed	
Tues	Oct. 12	7:30 PM	SOMS PTA Meeting - Library
Fri	Oct. 15	First Quarter Progress Reports Mailed	
Mon – Fri Sept. 18 – 22	SOMS Book Fair		
Tues	Oct. 19	Picture Day	
Wed	Oct. 20	7:00 PM	SOCEs/SOMS Gifted and Talented Presentation – Location to be announced
Thurs	Oct. 21	7:30 PM	BOE Meeting at SOMS Room 165
Fri	Oct. 22	7:00 – 9:00 PM	PTA Fall Party for Grades 6 – 8
Sat	Oct. 23	SOCASA / SADD – Walk / Run Event	
Sun	Oct. 24	United Nations Day	
Wed	Oct. 27	1:40 PM – 2:20 PM	BLT Meeting
Fri	Oct. 29	Halloween Parade – During Lunch Periods	

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In an effort to **GO GREEN**, all future newsletters will be sent home electronically as well as posted on the SOMS webpage. If you wish to receive our future electronic newsletters as well as updates regarding events and news in the SOMS building, please go to the District website (socsd.org), under SCHOOLS click South Orangetown Middle School and provide us with your email in the **SOMS Electronic Email Service** section located on the bottom right of the page.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

As we continue to embrace modern technology, SOMS will introduce paperless Progress Reports in the third and fourth quarters of the 2010 - 2011 school year. Parents/Guardians may access their child's progress reports and report cards via the PowerSchool Parent Portal found on the SOMS webpage. Our future mailings will include specific information and updates regarding Portal access. These updates will also be posted on the website for easy access.