

## October 2020 Newsletter



### A Note from Mrs. Haney, SMS Principal

All of us here at Sisters Middle School are extremely thankful to the rock-solid collaboration and start to our school year. We hope that each student and family is now finding themselves in the swing of Comprehensive Distance Learning. We would like to thank all of the families that have attended administrative and teacher led Zooms. Please continue to communicate your needs and suggestions so we can continue to provide a top-notch education.

As you are all aware from Superintendent Scholl's email, we will not be able to reopen on October 19th. Our new tentative date for reopening in our Hybrid Model is November 2nd. *When* we are able to move to the hybrid model the format will be as follows: Students with the last names beginning with A-L will come to school on Monday and Wednesday, and students with last names beginning with M-Z will come to school on Tuesday and Thursday. We will have a thorough explanation of plans and procedures for the Hybrid Schooling format once we know we are nearing the start of Hybrid.

In a couple of weeks we will capitalize on home-school collaboration by way of targeted conferences. Targeted conferences are conferences chosen by teachers to help support students who are not meeting grade level expectations, not performing to their potential, students in need of social emotional support and more. You will hear from teachers in the next couple of weeks to schedule your child's conference.

While the majority of the conferences held are chosen by teachers, parents may request a conference. If you'd like to request a conference, please email one of your child's teachers if you'd like a conference. These conferences should be the springboard of a longer and ongoing conversation with your student about how they can be as successful as possible for the school year.

While we wish that we were meeting the checklist to safely reopen, we are happy with the very distant second place offering of limited in-person offerings. We have been able to bring in the first few groups of 10 or less in Art, Band, ECOS, and academic support!

We thank you for your continued support and grace through this complex start to the 2020 school year. We miss your students greatly and are happy to "see" and work with them in whatever ways we can.

Your partner in education and community enhancement,

Mrs. Haney

### **A Message from Tim Roth, SMS Assistant Principal**

#### ***Teen Intervene***

Here at Sisters Middle School we believe student health and wellness is a critical component of the learning environment. We are excited to announce a new health resource that will be available November 1st, to our school community called *Teen Intervene*. This evidence-based intervention is designed to reduce and ultimately eliminate a teen's substance use by providing them with individualized counseling sessions that are administered by a local trained professional. The program will be offered at the middle and high school and will be implemented in a virtual setting until school returns to in-person learning. If you are concerned that your child might be using substances, please contact Tim Roth ([tim.roth@ssd6.org](mailto:tim.roth@ssd6.org)) to request a substance use screening and they will direct your child to the appropriate pathway of care.

Check out this [short video](#) to learn more about what Teen Intervene is all about

## ODE Testing

In 2010, Oregon adopted higher K-12 standards in English language arts and mathematics to ensure that all students move from grade to grade with the academic knowledge and skills necessary for success beyond high school. The Oregon Department of Education adjusted the test blueprint for 2020-21 to allow for reliable estimation of student performance, while decreasing the time that students spend testing. House Bill 2655 permits parents and adult students to annually opt-out of Oregon's statewide summative tests in English language arts and mathematics by submitting an annual form to the school the student attends.

Visit the following links for more information:

- **SSD Smarter Balanced Testing Link:**  
<http://ssd6.org/departments/student-services/sba/>
- **Annual Notice English Link:**  
[https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Documents/Annual\\_Notice\\_English.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Documents/Annual_Notice_English.pdf)
- **Aviso anual española:**  
[https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Documents/Annual\\_Notice\\_Spanish.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/ode/educator-resources/assessment/Documents/Annual_Notice_Spanish.pdf)

## A message from Mr. Jackson, SMS Counselor

### October is National Bullying Prevention Month

Every October, schools and organizations across the country join to increase student awareness and reduce harassment while observing National Bullying Prevention Month.

**The goal:** Educate and encourage students to work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying and put an end to hatred and racism by promoting kindness and community.

### What SMS is doing:

Guidance lessons for all grades that cover topics such as:

- Identifying and Defining Common Types of Bullying
- The Differences Between Harassment, Bullying and Mean Behavior
- How to report and student rights

- How to Be an Upstander
- Inclusivity
- Prevention and Creating Change

**Here are few resources for parents to support their student with Social Emotional Learning:**

1. The Imagine Neighborhood is a podcast designed to help children and grown-ups grow their social-emotional skills. <https://www.imagineneighborhood.org/>
2. Mind Yeti: [Mind Yeti](#)
3. Parent Teen Connect: Screen Time, Independence, Responsibility, Communication  
<https://www.parentteenconnect.org/>

**Notes from the Front Office**

The office appreciates all parents that call their student absences during the distance learning. We are working to keep accurate attendance during these different times. Please call 541-549-2099 opt 1 for the attendance line.

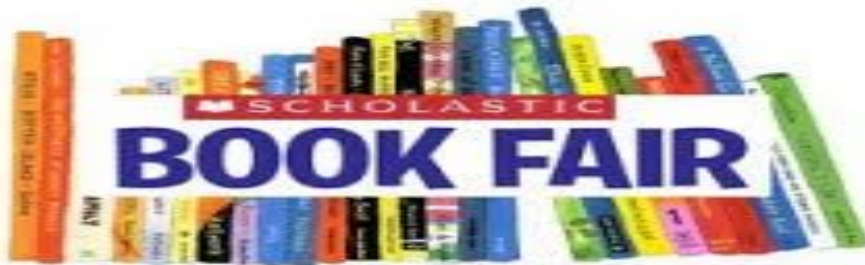
**A message from Mr. Schiedler, Leadership Teacher at SMS**

**Leadership Announcements**

**Outlaw Merchandise**

We will continue to have opportunities throughout the year to purchase various Outlaw items such as shirts, hoodies, hats, beanies, stickers, water bottles, and more. If you are interested in any of those items before a scheduled purchasing event, please contact Jeff Schiedler to purchase. Mr. Schiedler will also be at the Sisters Farmers Market on Sunday, 10/4 with Outlaw Gear!

[jeff.schiedler@ssd6.org](mailto:jeff.schiedler@ssd6.org)



The Scholastic Book Fair is back! While the Fair will be exclusively held online this year, we still plan on making it a fun and joyous experience for our kids. The Online Fair will include features like: Sisters Middle School's own online store, games for kids, virtual store walk-throughs and more.

Remember, every dollar you spend will benefit our school directly (25% back in rewards!).

Save these **Fair Dates:** 11/9/20 – 11/22/20

We can't wait to "see" you at the Fair!

**A message from WEB Director, Jules Davies & The WEB Leaders**

## ***Hello from the WEB Bunch!***

Here's some of our faces, and we would love to see yours! WEB means Where Everybody Belongs, and is a way for us 8th grade leaders to welcome all the new people at SMS and help you feel like an important part of Sisters Middle School, which you are! We play games, talk about school and life, and are here to help.

We meet **every first and third Wednesday at 1:30pm** on Zoom. Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5411253596?pwd=WXJYK3paUIBHVl93Y2M4aEtVd3hkUT09>

*See you Soon!*





*Don't miss our web zoom October 7th! We will be playing virtual bingo with some great prizes. YOU COULD WIN!!*

### **A message from Nurse Roy**



Families of SMS!

I wanted to send a reminder that there have been no changes in required immunizations for students. Seventh grade students are required to have Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) booster. You may contact your student's medical provider to schedule an appointment to receive immunizations. You may also contact Sisters School-Based Health Center at 541 526-6623 to make an appointment. If you have any questions please contact me by calling 541 549-2099 ext. 5055 or [trish.roy@ssd6.org](mailto:trish.roy@ssd6.org).

**Flu shots**--An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to help protect against the flu. You should get a flu vaccine before flu viruses begin spreading in your community, since it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to

develop in the body and provide protection against flu. Make plans to get vaccinated early in fall, before flu season begins.

**SBHC** is in the clinic on Tuesday for in-clinic visits, phone and video visits. Friday they are remote for phone or video visits. 541 526-6623

Trish Roy

School Nurse

Sisters Middle School/Sisters High School

[trish.roy@ssd6.org](mailto:trish.roy@ssd6.org)

541 549 2099 X5505/541 549-4045 X5505

## OHA Behavioral Health Helpline

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) announced the launch of a behavioral health outreach and education effort and new helpline for Oregonians. These new resources will help support increased behavioral health needs in our communities due to the broad impacts of COVID-19 and the once-in-a-lifetime wildfire season.

Portland-based nonprofit [Lines for Life](#) and OHA have launched the Safe + Strong Helpline at 800-923-4357 (800-923-HELP). The line offers free, 24-7 emotional support and resource referral to anyone who needs it – not only those experiencing a mental health crisis. Callers are routed to a counselor who can provide emotional support, mental health triage, drug and alcohol counseling, crisis counseling or just connection.

A behavioral health landing page at <https://www.safestrongoregon.org> offers mental and emotional support information and resources as well as guidance for how to have conversations with loved ones who may be struggling.

Resources:

- Safe + Strong Helpline: 800-923-4357 (HELP)
- Safe + Strong: <http://www.safestrongoregon.org/>.
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 800-273-8255

**Important Dates**

**October 19:** 6 Week Progress Reports Sent Home

**October 19-October 22:** Targeted Conferences

**October 26-29:** Virtual Spirit Week

**November 13:** No School-Veterans Day Observed

**November 25-27:** No School-Thanksgiving Break