

October 22, 2021

Greetings SAMS Blue Devil Families,

Please find updates and events that are upcoming to our school noted below.

Structured Learning Center Parent Notification

We understand that middle school students are developing socially, emotionally, physically, and academically. Sault Area Middle School has been fortunate that we have been able to provide a “time out” room for our students. This room is identified as “SLC”, or our Structured Learning Center. Our SLC is supervised by a member of our staff that is also able to assist students with their learning goals and classwork. The purpose of SLC is to provide students that have displayed disruptive behavior in the learning environment with an opportunity to reflect on four questions (below) and attempt to shift their focus back to school and learning.

- What behavior was I displaying at the time I earned a SLC referral?
- Who else was affected or could have been affected by my choices?
- What have I learned about how to handle a similar situation differently in the future?
- What steps should I take to correct the behavior that I displayed today?

Students that are sent to SLC by a classroom teacher are afforded fifteen minutes to complete their reflection and are then sent back to their assigned class with the intended goal of successfully completing the class period and assignments.

With our new student information system, MiStar, we are now able to notify parents/guardians in “real time” of their students' visits to SLC. This is an important addition to affording a positive home and school connection. When a student arrives at SLC, the SLC monitor will make note of their visit in MiStar. This will send an automatic email to parent emails already established in the parent portal indicating the date, time, and class period that the student was sent to SLC from. If parents or guardians have the MiStar app on their cell phone or tablet and push notifications are turned on, a notification will be visible on the device.

If there are any additional questions or concerns about a student visit to SLC please contact the teacher of the class period noted in the notification, or the main office for further clarification.

SmartPass

Traditionally at SAMS, students have signed in and out of classrooms on a clipboard when leaving the classroom to visit a counselor, see the nurse, head to the main office for an errand, or to use the restroom. We have been afforded the opportunity to utilize a secure, online system called “SmartPass” for students to sign in and out of classrooms electronically with their chromebooks.

With SmartPass, teachers and support staff will be able to readily “see” where students are to

be when passes are provided for students to leave the classroom setting. This also allows main office staff to readily know where students are when outside of the classroom.

Incentive Day, November 5, 2021

The last day of our first Marking Period is Friday, November 5, 2021. Please note that this is a half day for SAMS students, dismissal is at 11am. The first part of our morning we have a school-wide pancake feed. Parents/guardians are invited to join their student(s) for pancakes from 8:30-9:30. At 9:30am, we will have a parent presentation on "Medicines in our Backyard" from Laura Downwind. We are excited to host Mrs. Downwind during Native American Heritage Month and share some of the rich culture that surrounds us.

Picture Retakes

Student picture retakes will be hosted in the morning on Tuesday, November 9.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences at SAMS will be hosted on Wednesday, November 10 and Thursday, November 11, 2021. The structure of conferences this year will be a blend of in-person conferences and virtual conferences - selected by parent choice. We are hopeful that this better supports all parents and guardians that choose to attend.

In person conferences will be held on Wednesday, November 10 from 12:30pm-3:00pm and 5pm-7pm. Conferences are hosted in the main gym. There are no scheduled conference times during in-person conferences. Parents/guardians are welcome to meet with the teacher(s) that they wish to meet with on a first come, first served basis.

Virtual conferences will be held on Thursday, November 11 from 12:30-3:00pm. Virtual conferences are scheduled individually with the teachers that parents/guardians wish to meet with. All staff emails are included at the end of this letter to help with scheduling.

Rock your Mocs

On Monday, November 15 we will be hosting "Rock your Mocs" day at SAMS. This is one of the events we partake in to celebrate Native American Heritage Month during the month of November. All students, staff, and parents are invited to Rock your Mocs with us on November 15.

Thank you for your continued support! If there are questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at jmccarthy@eupschools.org or 906-635-3839, extension 5708.

Kind regards,

Jessica A. Rondeau-McCarthy
Principal

		SUBJECTS	EMAIL
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