



SFMS Mustangs

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Testing Our STARS

Each year, students from grades two through twelve take the California State Tests called STAR (Standardized Testing and Reporting) to demonstrate what they have learned during that school year. While some parents, teachers, and students say, "It's just a test," the results are very important for middle school students. The high school system uses the 7th and 8th grade results to help place students in classes their 9th grade year and to qualify students for special programs, such as GATE (Gifted and Talented Education). The staff at South Fork Middle School uses state testing results and teacher recommendations to place students in math classes, especially their 8th grade year.



The results of your student's state testing can impact the classes that they are allowed to take in middle school and high school!!!

State testing begins April 10, 2012!

Special points of interest:

- 86 South Fork Middle School students had zero suspensions and fewer than 4 detentions for the third quarter! That's 61%!
- 25% had no detentions!
- 20% of SFMS students had perfect attendance for 3rd quarter.
- 23 students qualified for the Kevin McCarthy Award: zero detentions, 3.5 or better GPA, and 95% attendance!
- 53% made honor roll!
- See inside for our entire honor roll list!

Funding Updates



Congratulations to all of the students who worked so hard to earn money for the Spring Fund Raiser!

Top earners:

- #1: Gabby Murphy
\$611.00
- #2: Shelby Robertson
\$342.00
- #3: Elizabeth Alexander
\$295.00

We have just finished our Uncle Jerry's T's spring fund raiser. Students sold items such as teeshirts, towels, jewelry, candles, and kitchen items for prizes and free items. This fund raiser earned the South Fork Student Body almost \$2,000! Each student who sold items was credited 40% of the total that they sell; the items cost us 60% of the total selling price.

On March 23, 2012, we plan on using some of the funds raised to sponsor a dance for students in the sixth through eighth grades. This dance will be free, as will be most of the food items. Pictures can be purchased for \$2 each. Volunteers to help decorate or chaperone are welcome! **Call Dawne Gibson or Mary Ann Morgan at 760-378-1300 for more information!**

Watch for This...

EVENTS & HOLIDAYS:

MARCH 11: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!!

March 14: MINIMUM DAY FOR

Parent-teacher conferences.

March 30: MINIMUM DAY!

March 31-April 8: Spring Break!

April 10: State Testing Begins.

April 18: MINIMUM DAY!

April 26: Progress Reports Go Home

May 2: MINIMUM DAY!

May 4: 8th graders visit KVHS

May 16: MINIMUM DAY!

May 30: 8th Grade Graduation (tentative)



Upcoming Attendance Awards:

Congratulations TO **RACK Deming** 3rd Quarter Nintendo DSi winner!

Each month that your student does not miss any days of school, he or she gets an attendance bracelet, a small reward, and a ticket towards a raffle.

4th Quarter raffle:
Bicycle w/helmet

Less than 5 **EXCUSED** absences by the end of the year:
32 inch flat screen TV or a Kodak Rechargeable Camera

Stress and Distress, Middle School Style



Stress is not what happens to us; it is our response to what happens. Our response is something that we can CHOOSE.

Maureen Killoran

The American Psychological Association's (APA) 2010 Stress in America Report indicates that 44% of Americans are experiencing higher levels of stress. Close to 1/3 of students say that they also feel physical symptoms of stress and 55% say that it affects them on a regular basis. Teen-

sHealth.org states, "The hypothalamus signals the adrenal glands to produce more of the hormones adrenaline and cortisol and release them into the bloodstream. These hormones speed up the heart rate, breathing rate, blood pressure, and metabolism." Constant stress can cause damage to the nervous system, weaken the im-

mune system, elevate blood pressure, and influence depression. In the next newsletter, look for the list of ways to step back, breathe, and manage your student's life's stressors:

Avoid, Alter, Accept, Adapt!

New tips coming soon!

Need Medical Insurance?

California still offers LOW COST & NO COST Insurance

Call South Fork Middle School @ 760-378-1300 for an application.

All incoming 7th graders must have a T-Dap Immunization by the first day of school 2012! Make an appointment soon!

Please send or fax copies of shot records to South Fork Middle School 760-378-9113

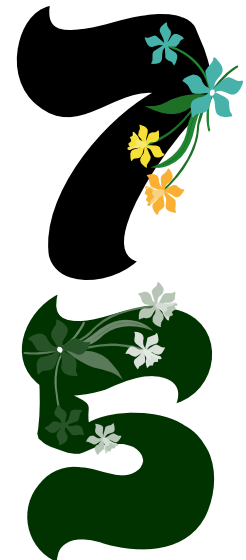
We also have lists of local Medi-Cal Providers!





3rd Quarter Honor Roll

Platinum Honor Roll:	Gold Honor Roll:	Juliana Thom	Tyler Simunovich
Tylee Hogue	Garrett Carothers	Devon Vittoria	Brandon Valdez
Faith Marshall	Samantha Helms	Cristal Anzaldo	Chase Watson
Maddison McMullen	Hannah Hurley	Cole Behm	Kaitlyn Booher
Haley Peterson	Robert Murphy	Rebecca Bowen	Levi Elie
Kaylie Torres	Morgan Olson	Zachary Hendrickson	Kelly Hand
Ella Damron	Kassy Opferman	Jacob McCullough	Theresa Lail
Serenity Durham	Nadia Roberts	Jessica Melby	Brittany Mazzarini
Skylar Newton	Nyla Sepulveda	Corie Bergsma	Bailey Settlemire
Angelina Sanchez	Gordon Wray	Ashlee Garcia	Dustin Avila
Isabella Sunderland	Elizabeth Alexander	Jacob Reeves	Emil Priesol
Daniel Wray	Taylor Alldredge	Brittany Smith	Payton Booher
Dakota Harbuck	Hayley Bevan	Silver Honor Roll:	Charlotte Davenport
Sadie Mullenauer	Jessie Boswell-Lee	Desiree Chapman	Harleigh Harbuck
Skye Simunovich	Tyler Cazares	Rachel Driskell	Austin Hurley
Aurora Sunderland	Bryanna Ege	Jeromy Jost	Phillip McAfee
Mackensie Eirich	Mariah Embree	Jacob Lightner, Jr.	Sean Wilson
Tori Hogue	Mark Fulkerson	Shawn Luker	
Ricky Moreno	Morgan Green	Zachery Meeks	
Ashley Yasin	Zeno LaGrand	Thomas Schrody	
	Revel Marshall		



Percentage of students that we want to make honor roll for 4th Quarter!

Students and Drugs: A Watch List for Parents

Students today have access to drugs, tobacco, and alcohol in their communities. If you suspect that your child is doing drugs, many physicians and sheriff departments offer drug screenings, or you can purchase them from some drug stores. Look for these signs that your child may be doing something harmful:

1. Changes in friends,

2. Negative changes in school work or attendance,
3. Increased secrecy about possessions or activities,
4. Change in clothing preference and styles,
5. Increase in borrowing or taking money,
6. Evidence of drug use or paraphernalia,
7. Increased use of products that can be inhaled

(hairspray, whip cream aerosol, nail polish),

8. Bottles of eye drops (to cover bloodshot eyes),
9. Use of mouthwash or mints to cover breath,
10. AND MISSING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS!!!

Look at websites such as "Parents: The Anti-Drug" for more tips and information:
<http://www.theantidrug.com>.

Did you know...

More adolescents report drinking alcohol (16%) and binge drinking (10%) than smoking cigarettes (9%) in the last month!

—Adolescent Substance Abuse Knowledge Base

Check the school website for links to teacher sites.
www.southforkschool.org

SSA

Early in November, 50 students at SFMS were trained to be Safe School Ambassadors (SSA). These students were taught how to assess situations that occur among their peers and how to help the situations through appropriate actions, such as en-

couraging others, befriending them, or getting help when the situation warrants. We will be holding weekly meetings with these students to help encourage them to continue to make a difference! We want every student at South Fork to feel safe.

Did you know...

If every student at SFMS made one positive action to help another student we would have:

675

positive actions/week



South Fork Middle School Mustangs Succeed in School!



PTC Activities!

5225 Kelso Valley Road
Weldon, CA 93283

Phone: 760-378-1300
Fax: 760-378-9113
E-mail: anthome@zeus.kern.org

South Fork Students Succeed!

We're on the web!

www.southforkschool.org

SFUSD

PTC meets the second Monday of each month in the elementary school cafeteria at 2:45 pm. We could always use extra volunteers and helpers to work events! The next meeting will be April 9th.



This quarter, PTC has provided many items on teacher's "wish lists," such as paper, colored pencils, and pencil sharpeners. On February 29th, PTC sponsored Dr. Seuss Day hats and pencils for every student.

For fund raisers, we have the book fair, which is just finishing for the spring season, and See's Candy Sales. PTC received several donations to purchase books to give directly to students and sponsored give-aways and activities to encourage more students to read!



See's Sales end March 16th! Order by then!



Missing a jacket, shoes, or other personal item? Check the bags next to the middle school office for lost and found items. They will be discarded after one week!!



**To volunteer for this and other events contact:
760-378-2211**



Principal's Closing:

Dear Parents and Guardians:



Over the past 6 years many parents and schools have watched in dismay as the State of California has made cuts to education year after year. Each year, the South Fork School Board of Trustees struggles to keep the cuts as far away from the children's education as possible. As we face the budgetary challenges and changes, the South Fork School District must make many choices concerning our children's education.

One of the most devastating cuts that continue to threaten South Fork is the home-to-school bus transportation cut. As California looks, once again, at cutting funding for our students, the governor says that he: "... is going out of the business of paying for home-to-school transportation." As one option, the governor has cut transportation out of the budget for next year. South Fork struggles with the potential loss of \$93,000.00 next year for the school bus transportation. Yet, at the same time, South Fork realizes that families are also struggling with the rising cost of gas and transportation. The question becomes: "How can we still provide transportation for our children?"

In an effort to maintain some form of school bus transportation for our students, the South Fork School Board of Trustees has approved changes to the daily school bus routes. The bus routes will be less often and more centrally located. On the upside, kids will be on the bus for a shorter period of time and students will continue to have some form of home-to-school bus transportation. The new bus routes will take effect on April 9, 2012. During the month of March, the new bus routes will be previewed and parents will have ample time to plan for the changes. The new bus routes will be mailed to families and posted in the local newspaper. We will also send home notices with the children during the next three weeks. Sincerely, Mrs. Sherry Nichols

