



NEWBURGH ENLARGED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# South Middle School

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# South Middle School



## Welcome!

Greetings SMS Families!

We hope that you and your family are doing well! We are now in October and even more excited to have our incoming 6th grade class return to the building. We have been preparing the building, setting protocols and procedures, and eagerly awaiting the students! We miss your kids so much! The lunch room is quiet, the halls are empty, and we miss going into the classrooms to see the students learning with our amazing staff. We can't wait to see all the students in the building, but until then, Just let your children know, they belong here, we want them here, and we love them!

Please review the family guide and manuals on the district website in regards to academics, tech assistance and updated information.

## Some important resources to use:

### REMINDER:

School starts at 7 AM -  
6th grade arrival starts at  
6:50, dismissal for  
walkers and pick-ups at  
2:15

On Wednesday - it is a virtual day, make sure the students go in to every assigned class and complete the google form

[SMS Welcome Presentation and Video](#)

Technology assistance is available through the district help desk: [Use this link to get help!](#)

Add us on Social Media!

Picture Day - TBD



## What is SEL?

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

A systemic, schoolwide approach to SEL intentionally cultivates a caring, participatory, and equitable learning environment and evidence-based practices that actively involve all students in their social, emotional, and academic growth. This approach requires a coordinated strategy across classrooms, schools, homes, and communities.

The goal is to prepare students for long-term success in life and to become responsible, caring citizens in our multicultural society.

### Questions we want students to think about based on each SEL competency:

- **Self Awareness**  
“What are you good at in this class and how do you know you are good at it?”  
“When you don’t understand something in this class, what do you do?”
- **Self Management**  
“How do you move toward your goal, especially when you lose focus or are stuck or stressed?”
- **Social Awareness**  
“When you are working in a group how do you make sure it is fair for everyone?”
- **Relationship skills**  
“What do you do so that your classmates and teacher have heard and understand your ideas/what you are saying?”
- **Responsible decision making**  
“When you are working with others, how do you make a decision?”

### How will we help them at South Middle School?

Teachers will implement SEL lessons during class instruction

### Resources that everyone can use:

[Growth-Mindset-Poster.jpg](#)

### Rest, Reflect, Reset:

- Journaling to express feelings and write positive affirmations
- Physical activity
- Meditation (Quick 5-minute options)

<https://youtu.be/i50ZAs7v9es>

<https://youtu.be/L1QOh-n-eus>



# Safety Plan

The safety and welfare of our students and staff are our highest priority at SMS.

Your student will participate in several safety drills, as part of our comprehensive safety plan, during the year. The goal of practicing the drills is to help our students feel safe at school and to know what to do should an emergency arise. We are sharing this information with you to discuss the importance of safety drills with your student.

If you have any questions about any of our safety procedures, please don't hesitate to contact us at 845.563-7000

## South Middle School SCEP Goals



### Mission

Inspiring students to be tomorrow's leaders beyond Academy Field



### Vision

Through the Work of All, we will achieve inclusive excellence

### Core Values

**N** – Nurturing

**E** – Empowering

**C** – Collaborative

**S** – Student-Centered

**D** – Diverse



**Goal 1 - Tenet 1:**  
Effective schools establish school wide systems and structures that promote continuous improvement and success for all students.

By June 2021, South Middle School will have prioritized tones, empathy, and positive communication resulting in a reduced chronic absenteeism rate of 18% or less, as monitored through South Middle School attendance committee.

**Goal 2 - Tenet 4:**  
Using Assessment and Feedback in Instruction

By June 2021, 75% of SMS teachers will regularly provide students clear and concise feedback to improve tier work as evidenced by walkthrough data.

**Goal 3 - Tenet 5A:**  
Establishing school-wide practices that support SEL

By June 2021, SMS will have implemented ten units of ReThink Ed and consistently use Brain Power Wellness resulting in a reduction in referral rates by ten percent.

**Goal 4 - Tenet 6A:**  
Systems for communication

By June 2021, SMS will improve communications as evidenced by 75% of parents agreeing that "they are satisfied with how well the school communicated with them" on the parent survey.

**Goal 5 - Survey Goal**  
respect for diversity will be well developed and evident

By June 2021, 53.5% of students at SMS will agree or strongly agree to the survey question.

# Parent Advisory Group

Parents

Leaders



Stakeholders

Members

Together  
Everyone  
Achieves  
More

Decision  
Makers

Change  
Agents



## What is a Parent Advisory Group?

It is a committee made of of parents who offer suggestions for parental involvement activities and guide the school in important decision making.

