

# Summertime!

June 2017



We are quickly wrapping up the 2016-2017 school year! June flies by with end-of-the-year events like Field Day, final class trips, the celebration of the arts, kindergarten promotion, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. We are excited to be graduating our first group of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students – many of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders began at our school as 5<sup>th</sup> graders. It's hard to let them leave, but we are excited about all the wonderful experiences that await them! A special experience that we are providing to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders that we hope to make one of our capstone experiences is a trip to Washington, DC. They leave for DC this Saturday morning.

I was thrilled to be able to spend a few days with our 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Camp Compneconic this month. This is another capstone experience we offer to our elementary students as they transition into middle school. It was a great experience for all of our students – they were able to move past their fears as they tried many things for the first time: kayaking, fishing, mountain biking, climbing on a high-ropes course, and more. They experienced feelings of accomplishment and boosted confidence as they attempted and completed these activities.

State M-STEP testing is complete for the 2016-2017 school year. We will learn our results in late summer or early fall. We have already begun NWEA testing to end the school year – those results will go home with your students on the last day of school.

Thank you to everyone that let their kids ride to school on May 10<sup>th</sup> (“Bike to School Day”) – we were pleased with the turn-out! If you ever want your child to ride their bike to school, we can always provide secure storage or locks to keep it safe during the day.

Before summer vacation starts, please make sure that your contact information is updated with the office. We need to be able to call, text, and mail information to your family over the summer months. You can also always check [swdcs.org](http://swdcs.org) for updates on school events, like the 2017-2018 orientation in early August.

Thanks for all your support in the education of our children!

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## Congratulations Ms. DW!

Our very own Emily Doering-White was named the **2017 Outstanding Teacher for Grades K-6** by the Grand Valley State University Charter School Office! The Director of the Charter School Office -- along with her family and many, many excited students -- surprised Ms. DW with the award. A special thank you to Ms. Stoney for nominating Ms. DW and helping to coordinate the celebration in her honor.

## Summer School

SWDCS' Summer School will run from July 10, 2017 through August 11, 2017. During this five-week session, students will receive small-group reading and math instruction, and participate in hands-on science activities and weekly field experiences. The summer school day will be from 8am until 1pm (including breakfast and lunch). Summer school invitations/ contracts were sent home this week. Please return those as soon as possible to secure your child's spot.

## Field Day

SWDCS' Field Day will be Friday, June 23, 2017! Fun activities are planned throughout the day for students. This is also the last day of school for the 2016-2017 school year and report cards will be sent home at the end of the day. If you are interested in helping out with any of the activities on Field Day, please contact Ms. Gonzalez or Mr. Harvey.



## Choir & Orchestra

Congratulations to all of our Choir and Orchestra students for earning gold ratings at the Performing Arts Consultants 'PAC for a Day' competition in Sandusky, OH! Both groups improved a point from last year, and Ms. Roberts received an Outstanding Music

Director Award!

## Calendar Update for June

In order to allow students and staff to attend our 8th grade commencement, there will be a half day of school on Wednesday, June 21, 2017. Our Kindergarten promotion ceremony will take place in the morning, **all students will be dismissed at 11:30am**, and the 8th grade commencement will be at 2:30pm at the Charles H. Wright Museum, 315 E. Warren Avenue, Detroit, MI 48201.

## NWEA

Our students take the NWEA Measures of Academic Practice (MAP) test each fall, winter, and spring. We are able to use the scores on this test to measure how much growth they have made over the course of the school year. This is a computer based test and it adapts to the student's level. It can be quite challenging. Students are only expected to be able to answer about half of the

questions correctly -- and that's okay! That's how this particular test works. All students will finish taking the spring edition of this assessment within the next week.



## Celebration of the Arts

We will have a Celebration of the Arts, Wednesday June 7th from 5:30pm until 7:30pm. The orchestras and choirs will be performing in the gym at 5:30pm and 6:30pm. The art show and art night will take place in the elementary hallway from 5:30-7:30 PM.

## Soccer

SWDCS' spring soccer program wraps up soon! Games are played at Patton Park (though many of the final games will be at Fort Wayne). Please check the website or contact the office for more information on exact times: [swdcs.org/events](http://swdcs.org/events).



## Fidget Spinners

Fidget Spinners are very popular items right now, but please keep in mind they are considered toys at school. As such, teachers are free to ban them from the classroom or confiscate them if they become a distraction. The school is not responsible for lost or broken spinners. It is best to have your child keep them at home and enjoy them after school hours.

## Enrollment

4th and 5th grades are fully enrolled, but we have openings in other grades. Please refer your family, friends, and neighbors to our school for the 2017-2018 school year!

## Handicap Parking Spaces

Please do not park in the handicap spaces in our school's parking lot unless you have handicap permit. We have students that rely on those spaces and multiple visitors that also use them.



## School Website

Our school website is up and running! Please head over to [www.swdcs.org](http://www.swdcs.org) to check it out. You can view original artwork from our students, find staff contact information, catch up on current events, check the school calendar, look up what's for lunch, and much more!

## Updated Board Meeting Schedule

The SWDCS School Board meeting scheduled for May 24, 2017 has been moved to June 7, 2017. An updated schedule of board meetings is posted in the school's lobby.

