

SOUTHERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER

9615 HG Trueman Road, Lusby, MD 20657
Main Office (410) 535-7877 Guidance (410) 535-7881

<http://smsweb.calvertnet.k12.md.us/>

Mandy Blackmon, Principal
Travis Mister, Vice Principal
Rachel Couchenour, Dean

Tammy Frawley, Counselor (A-K)
Stephanie Goldstein, Counselor (L-Z)

Hello Southern Middle School Community and Families,

Winter break is almost upon us! I hope your plans are coming together for the holidays! And speaking of social gatherings and celebrations, I was thrilled with the participation of the SMS community in our first Community Night on December 2. A huge thanks to all who came out and to all who helped make the evening such a success. Stay tuned for future opportunities for SMS students, teachers, and families to come together as a group and make our community bonds even stronger.

Warm wishes to all for a peaceful, joyous, and restful winter break. See you in the new year!

Here are some important upcoming dates on the SMS calendar:

12/22 – 2 hour early dismissal

12/23-1/2 – Winter break

1/3/17 – School reopens

As always, if you have a question and/or a concern, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-535-7877 or at blackmonm@calvertnet.k12.md.us.

Your partner in education,

Mrs. Mandy M. Blackmon, Principal

ATTENTION 6TH GRADE PARENTS

New Immunization Requirements

The Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines are required before the first day of school for all students entering the 7th grade.

Students without a shot record at school **will not** be allowed in school until it has been received.

Parents/guardians call your student's doctor to see if they have received them.

Shots records can be faxed to Attn: School Nurse at (410) 535-7892

If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Terry Porter, LPN, School Nurse at (410) 535-7882

FREE FLU SHOTS

The CCHD has approximately 300 flu vaccines that they would like to offer to our **STUDENTS** 4-18 years of age.

The flu vaccines will be offered at the health department at the following times:

Tuesday mornings from 8:30-11:00 am (through March 2017)

Tuesday afternoons from 1:00-3:30 pm (through December 2016)

They are walk-in clinics and no appointment is necessary. The parent or guardian must be present with the student to sign for consent.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Chris Knode RN BSN NCSN
Supervisor of Student Services/School Health
Calvert County Public Schools
410 535-7484

GO EAGLES!

Counseling Corner

College and Career Exploration

We will be completing a unit of study with all of our students encouraging them to begin setting goals and planning for their post high school education. Please ask your child to share with you the information that will be distributed during those lessons. Hopefully you have begun to talk about plans for their future careers. We want students to be as focused as possible when they select courses for high school in the spring. Students will also be given access to a career exploration website, Career Cruising, which will allow them to develop a portfolio that will carry on to their high school career.

HAC

We continue to encourage you to monitor your student through the Home Access Center. It takes a very short amount of time and will provide you with important information regarding your child's grades, attendance, and more. If you are experiencing difficulty accessing HAC or navigating the website for HAC please feel free to contact the counseling office during school hours for assistance.

Career Café

Please encourage your student to attend our monthly career café opportunities in which they are able to listen to members of the community present different careers during their nest time. Students may sign up either with their first period teacher or in the counseling office.

Free Online Homework Help

Free online homework help is available (with your library card) through the Calvert County Library. Real, expert tutors are available from your library or home computer in all core subjects (grades 3-12). Tutors are available from 2-11 pm daily. You can access this service at www.calvert.lib.md.us and the COSMOS link.

Thank you!

Mrs. Frawley, counselor for students with last names A–K

frawleyt@calvertnet.k12.md.us or by phone at 410-535-7881

Mrs. Goldstein, counselor for students with last names L–Z

goldsteinsj@calvertnet.k12.md.us or by phone at 410-535-7881

Career Café Volunteer Sign Up

If you are interested in volunteering to present to our students about your career during our 1 hour lunch period, please fill out the form below and return to the counseling department.

Top of Form

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Career Job Title: _____

Company: _____

Email: _____

Phone (Best number to reach you during school hours):

Do you have a child that attends SMS? _____

Do you have any special needs for your presentation?

Bottom of Form



NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL POM & DANCE CLINIC

Check-in begins at 11:30am

Performance and Awards show for parents starts at 3:30

**SUNDAY JANUARY 10TH
12-4 PM**

Learn what it takes to be a NHS Pom! All girls in grades 4-8 are invited to participate. Instruction will be provided by the members of the NHS Pom squad and coaches. Participants will be divided in groups based on age and ability for instruction. Girls participating will have the opportunity to perform at the Friday, January 22nd Girls Varsity Basketball game with the current NHS Pom squad.

Go to <http://goo.gl/farms/WHPSvcnE> to register online. Then fill out the attached medical release for each participant. Send it in with a check payable to: Northern High School Attn: Poms, 2950 Changyville Rd, Owings, MD 20726 by Tuesday, January 5th.



Please email nhsppomsa@gmail.com if you have any questions.

**Wear dance
appropriate
clothing and
sneakers**

**Eat lunch
beforehand and
bring plenty of
water**

**Pre-Registration
for returning
participants**

**-Need this year's
shirt \$30**

**- Already have this
year's shirt \$25**

**Pre-registration
Cost for new
participants \$35**

**Cost after Jan. 5th
\$40**

GAME DAY JAN.22

**T-shirts distributed at the
Game**

**Please wear plain white
tennis shoes, white socks,
and red shorts.**

**Participants need to arrive
by 5:30pm**

Northern High School Pom & Dance Clinic

Sunday January 10th from 12-4pm

Check-in will begin at 11:30 am

Go to <http://goo.gl/forms/VHPSve7iF1> to register online.

Then mail this medical release with a check payable to

Northern High School Attn: Poms
2950 Chaneyville Rd, Owings, MD 20736

by Tuesday, January 5th.

Liability Waiver (Must be signed by parent/guardian)

I, the undersigned participant, on behalf of myself, my heirs, legates, assigns, and my estate, hereby agree to indemnify, save and hold harmless Calvert County Public Schools and Northern High School and any of their agents, representatives, employees or assigns, my health, safety, or injury and or disability arising out of the result of participation in this event. In the event of an injury and apparent/guardian cannot be reached, I give authorization to obtain medical care. I also authorize any photographs taken of participant to be used in any promotional material by Northern High School.

Participant's Name Printed: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Medical concerns:

PTSA News

The November 1st collection of Box Tops has been sent and SMS will earn almost \$300!! That is wonderful news! A huge thank you goes out to the NJHS students at SMS, and Ms. Chain (their advisor), for collecting, sorting, and counting the Box Tops!! It made the submission process run very smoothly! Please continue to send in your Box Tops and have your student turn them in to his/her homeroom teacher. We will announce the class that turned in the most Box Tops soon! We have another big collection in the Spring and all of the Box Tops collected until then will count towards our Spring collection! Every little bit adds up and helps our school! Thank you for all of your support with Box Tops!

The feedback from teachers concerning the last two staff meetings has been so happy & thankful! The teachers really appreciate having great snacks for the monthly after-school staff meetings. A big Thank You to all the parents that bring in snacks & goodies—they are much appreciated!! The next staff meeting will be on January 25 and we are calling all volunteers to help!! The staff meeting usually is about 65 people. We are asking for baked goods—cookies, cupcakes, muffins, banana or pumpkin bread—as well as veggie trays & hummus, fruit or fruit trays, cheese platters & crackers, chips & dip, and grab 'n go snacks. Parents who would like to volunteer can contact Nicole Chigounis (smsvolunteer@comcast.net) or Mary Serra at ms27742@gmail.com. We really appreciate all the help with food donations!

Haven't joined PTSA yet? No problem! The form is on the next page; fill it out and send it in with the membership fee and you will be a proud 2016/2017 member! Join in January and you will be eligible for a gift card drawing! Make your new year's resolution a PTSA membership!

See the flyer on the following pages for information about our “Once & Done Nothing to Sell & Nothing to Buy Fundraiser” for SMS. Just make a donation of any size to fund PTSA's work in supporting SMS staff and students and skip the candy, wrapping paper, phone calls to relatives, and order forms left on the counter at work. Your donations to PTSA help support dances; teacher, staff, and bus driver appreciation food and gifts; the eighth grade celebrations; cultural arts activities; PBIS; and much, much more. THANK YOU for your generosity!



SMS PTSA Membership/Direct Donation Form

Helping SMS Soar ~ As Easy as 1 - 2 - 3 - 4!

★ Membership Dues are only \$6.00 per Person



MEMBER INFORMATION

Adult Member #1

Name/Phone		
Address		
Email		

- Parent/Guardian
 SMS Teacher/Staff
 Relative/Family friend

Adult Member #2

Name/Phone		
Address		
Email		

- Parent/Guardian
 SMS Teacher/Staff
 Relative/Family friend

	<u>Student Members</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>1st Pd Teacher</u>
Name			
Name			
Name			

Total # of Memberships _____ X \$6.00 = \$ _____ (individual)
 Family of 4 Membership (\$20.00) = \$ _____ (family)



SMS PTSA DIRECT DONATION APPEAL

Regardless of your membership status, the most HELPFUL way to support SMS students is with a tax deductible DIRECT DONATION which provides 100% direct support!
 (\$25 per student suggested, but any amount appreciated) \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (circle all that apply)

- Dance Chaperone (admission, concessions, etc.) 8th Grade Activities PTSA Board Co-Chair
 Hospitality (providing baked goods) Teacher/Staff Help

You will be contacted at email provided above when volunteers are needed for events!



PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM along with cash or check payable to SMS PTSA to the school office.

Questions? Please contact email our PTSA President at smsptsapresident@yahoo.com
 We greatly appreciate your participation and support of the SMS PTSA!

RETURN by SEPTEMBER 16 to be entered in our EARLY BIRD RAFFLE

You could WIN our EARLY BIRD RAFFLE ~ \$25 Walmart Gift Card

Help us SOAR TO REACH our SMS PTSA Goals:

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| *School Dances | *Staff Appreciation Week | *Welcome Back Staff Luncheon |
| *Box Tops Contest Incentives | *Hospitality at Staff Meetings | *Publish monthly e-newsletter |
| *8 th Grade End of Year Dance/Picnic | *Funds for School Requests & PBIS | *Cultural Arts Support |



SMS PTSA Fundraising Goal:
\$10,000

ANNOUNCING...



The SMS PTSA

“Once & Done Nothing to Sell & Nothing to Buy FUNDRAISER” to support our SMS Eagles!



Let's face it... fundraising is a part of life for sports, church, school, scouts, or other extra-curricular activities! So this year instead of looking through a catalog, we hope you'll join us as we head in a new direction by participating in our 'Once & Done Nothing to Sell & Nothing to Buy Fundraiser'!!

The SMS PTSA needs to raise funds to accomplish our PTSA Mission:

To offer PTSA sponsored activities, programs & events to benefit our SMS Community of students, staff, and families!

Help us SOAR TO REACH our SMS PTSA Goals:

- *School Dances & Game Nights
- *Funding Support for PBIS Incentives
- *8th Grade End of Year Dance/Picnic
- *Staff Appreciation Week
- *Hospitality at Staff Meetings
- *Funds for School Requests
- *Welcome Back Staff Breakfast
- *Publish monthly e-newsletter
- *Cultural Arts Support

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OF THE SMS PTSA!

- 1) Please select a level (below) of support to help fund our budget.
- 2) Send in cash or check (payable to SMS PTSA) in a sealed envelope marked SMS PTSA Once & Done.
- 3) Return your 'Once & Done' 100% tax-deductible donation before September 30. (So we can determine how much fundraising we still need to do to support our goal to meet our budget)

___ \$25 Thanks, I appreciate NOT having to browse through a catalog to choose 'something' to buy!

___ \$ 50 Thanks, I appreciate NOT having to ask my co-workers, neighbors, and relatives to buy 'something' as well!

___ \$ 75 Thanks, I appreciate ALL that the PTSA Board does to organize activities to support our students & staff (and this donation is easier than having to buy something to make these programs happen!)

___ \$ 100 Thanks, I appreciate a chance to participate in a fundraiser where 100% of my money supports my child's school AND to donate to a 501c3 charity that is 100% tax deductible!!

NAME/Email: _____

Student(s)/Grade: _____



SMS SPIRIT MAGNETS

Don't wait, order yours today.

The magnets are in and they look great! Buy one for your car or to use on your fridge or buy multiple magnets. At only \$5 a piece they are a budget friendly way to support SMS PTSA. Email any questions to smsptsapresident@yahoo.com

Please turn this portion in to the office. (Checks payable to SMS PTSA)

Name: _____ Grade: _____

7th Period teacher: _____

Number of Magnets: _____ Total amount due: _____

For internal use:

Date received: _____ Paid with: Cash _____ Check# _____

Date taken to school: _____ By: _____

THE SMART TALK QUICK GUIDE

How to set ground rules for your kids and their devices

Every kid wants a smartphone. And a tablet. And all the other popular technical devices. So, how do you know when it's time to get them one? How do you set ground rules you can actually enforce?

With a few helpful tips, you can figure out if your kid is ready and keep them safe and savvy when they go online.

What's the right age to get a kid a smartphone or other device?

The short answer: there really isn't an exact age that's best. It's different for every kid. One thing parents can do is consider their kid's maturity level. Here are some questions to help determine if your kid is ready:

- Does your kid show a sense of responsibility, such as letting you know when they leave the house? Do they show up when they say they will?
- Does your kid tend to lose things, such as backpacks or homework folders? If so, expect they might lose an expensive(!) phone, too.
- Does your kid need to be in touch for safety reasons?
- Would easy access to friends benefit your kid for social reasons?
- Do you think they'll use cell phones responsibly — for example, not texting during class or disturbing others with their phone conversations?
- Can they adhere to limits you set for minutes talked and apps downloaded?
- Will they use text, photo, and video functions responsibly and not to embarrass or harass others?

DID YOU KNOW?

75%

of children age 8 and under have access to some sort of smart mobile device at home.

How do I set ground rules to make sure my kids use their devices responsibly?

That's where The Smart Talk can help. Go to www.thesmarttalk.org with your kid by your side and we'll ask you a few questions to answer together. Some will help you agree on healthy limits. (Yep. You read that right. We said agree.) Some of the questions are meant to be conversation starting so you can more easily discuss online safety and privacy issues. We even ask a couple extra credit questions to make this a custom experience.

When you're done, you'll have a personalized, official family agreement that you and your kid can feel good about. Just print it out, sign it, and put it on the fridge for everyone to see.

Ground rules are great, but how do I stay on top of technology and this ever-changing subject matter?

Common Sense Media offers articles full of research, insight, and tips that can help you and your family manage all the challenges that come with technology. Here are just a few links to their best information.



Safety & Privacy — Covers how to protect your kid's privacy, how to make sure your kid isn't over-sharing on social media, which are the best privacy settings for your computer and smartphone, and more. Visit www.commonsensemedia.org/privacy-and-internet-safety



Screen Time — Covers how much screen time is ok, how to get kids to put down their devices, what to do if your kid is constantly texting, and more. Visit www.commonsensemedia.org/screen-time



Social Media — Covers social media basics, how to help your kid avoid digital drama, the right age to join Facebook and other sites, and more. Visit www.commonsensemedia.org/social-media



Apps & Downloads — Covers how to tell if an app is good for learning, video games you can say yes to, how to download smarter and cheaper, and more. Visit <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/learning-with-technology>



Texting & Calling — Covers how to balance the need for social interaction with problematic phone use. Visit www.commonsensemedia.org/cell-phone-parenting/my-kid-texts-constantly-what-can-i-do



Reputation & Respect — Covers what you should teach your kid about safe online behavior, cyberbullying prevention, how to report cyberbullying if necessary, and more. Visit www.commonsensemedia.org/cyberbullying



Online Videos & Cameras — Using YouTube as an example, this video explainer covers how kids are not only watching all kinds of online videos, including advertising, they're also putting their own videos on the Internet—for all the world to see. Visit www.commonsensemedia.org/videos/parents-guide-to-youtube

More From Common Sense Media

Parent Concerns in General: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/parent-concerns>

Advice Videos: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/video/advice>

Parent Blog: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/blog>

Family Guide to Essential Apps: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/guide/best-first-kids-apps>

Healthy Media Habits Infographic: <https://www.commonsensemedia.org/pediatricians>

DID YOU KNOW?

68%
of teens text
everyday

DID YOU KNOW?

51%
of teens visit
social networking
sites daily

Calvert County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, ancestry or national origin, familial status, marital status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or genetic information or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Director of Student Services
Director of Human Resources
1305 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678
410-535-1700

For further information on notice of non-discrimination, visit the Office of Civil Rights Complaint Assessment System at: <http://ocrcas.ed.gov> or call 1-800-421-3481.

Anti-sexual, Anti-racial and Anti-disability Harassment Statement

Discrimination can manifest itself in behaviors such as bullying, harassment, or intimidation of individuals.

Calvert County Public Schools does not tolerate any form of harassment including, but not limited to, sexual, racial, or disability. Any individual (student, employee, or community member) who believes that he or she has been subjected to any form of harassment is encouraged to report the allegation of harassment. Students, parents and community members may report allegations of harassment to:

Ms. Kimberly Roof
Director of Student Services
Calvert County Public Schools
1305 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Employees may report allegations of harassment to:

Dr. Vicky Karol
Director of Human Resources
Calvert County Public Schools
1305 Dares Beach Road
Prince Frederick, MD 20678

Calvert County Public Schools is committed to conducting a prompt investigation for any allegation of harassment. If harassment has occurred, the individual will be disciplined promptly. Disciplinary actions for students found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or expulsion. Disciplinary actions for employees found to have engaged in any form of harassment may result in suspension or termination.

Calvert County Public Schools encourages all students, parents, employees, and community members to work together to prevent any form of harassment.