



A note from Mrs. Noel Petrosky

St. Marys Area School District
St. Marys Area Middle School Principal
(814) 781-2148  @MSDutchpride2

Wednesday, January 23, 2019

There is a lot of important information coming home with this newsletter. Grade 7 will have the passive permission for the signs of suicide program. Grade 8 will have an informational letter for all of the events they will have available for the second semester, including the class trip and matriculation.

Snow Day: We have had our first snow day of the school year. We will be making up this day on **February 18, 2019**.

Signs of Suicide Program: Adolescence is a time of heightened stressors including peer and personal conflicts. To proactively support our students as they work through this in a positive way, and to help students identify a crisis not only in themselves but in their peers, we are again offering the Signs of Suicide Program to the students in seventh grade. Through the support of Dickinson Center, Inc., this program will be presented to the students during the week of February 4th. Additional information will be distributed with this newsletter to grade seven only.

Report Cards: These will be distributed on January 24th.

STAR Parent Reports: The students have completed their latest benchmark. The parent reports will be coming home with their report cards on January 24th.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Presentation: Have you ever heard the letters OVR? Come learn about the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and how they may assist with your transition plans from high school to your employment and post-secondary goals. Meet your local Transition Counselor and Early Reach Coordinator on January 29 at 3:30 PM in the LGI.

PSSA Testing: As we move into the second semester of school, we start to look ahead to our state assessments. There is some changes this year. The assessments and make-up test will be completed in a two-week time frame.

English Language Arts Assessment: April 15-17 & 24-26
Math, Science and Make-Up Assessments: April 29 & 30 and May 1-3

Please keep these dates in mind as if you are planning a spring getaway.

Open Swim: The pool is open! Students are invited to attend open swim at the high school from 7-9 PM. The cost is \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students. The pool will be available on the following dates:

January 29	January 31	February 5	February 7
February 12	February 14	February 19	February 21
February 26	February 28		

Wallops Island Fundraiser: This will be available for pick-up in the middle school cafeteria on February 6th after school until 5:00 PM.

Reality Tour: SMAMS is hosting this program. If you do not know what it is, Reality Tour is an evening experience for parents and their children ages 10 and up to learn about the harmful effects of substance abuse. It is a **MUST** that parents attend with their child. During the tour parents and children are shown the consequences of one youths progressive choices to try drugs, listen to an educational presentation on risk factors and family coping skills, as well as a guided assessment of strengths and gaps in healthy habits. Each family is provided conversation starter tools and activities to implement at home. A law enforcement officer and a member of the recovery community will also be given the opportunity to share their experiences with the group. I hope you take this opportunity on Monday, February 11th, Wednesday, February 13th, or Wednesday, February 20th from 6 pm - 9 pm to come and share an evening with your child to learn more about this very real social issue. There will be no homework assigned on these nights, and each student attending will receive a free t-shirt.

7th Grade Field Trip: Just a reminder that the seventh grade field trip has been scheduled for February 8th.

