

SOUTHWEST

Connections

Publication of Southwest School Corporation

SPRING 2018



What's Inside:

Carlisle Elementary and Middle School Clubs Add to Student Learning
Sullivan High School Students Are Already Earning College Credit
Well Wishes to Our Retiring Teachers and Staff

Machine Tool Technology is one of the many academic opportunities offered at Sullivan High School. Junior Caleb Jones is pictured setting up the vertical mill. Check inside this issue of "Southwest Connections" to find out what other types of great things are happening at Southwest Schools!

Superintendent's Message

Academics: The focus of the Southwest School Corporation remains academic opportunities and student success. During the 2017-18 school year, Sullivan High School achieved 100-percent pass on ECA (End of Course Assessments), while 19 students earned the State Transfer General Education Core. This equates to 30 college credit hours earned while in high school that are transferrable to any Indiana college or university. Thirty-two percent of the seniors will graduate with either Academic Honors or Technical Honors and two students will receive a technical certificate in Machine Tool Technology, which will qualify them to be work-force ready upon graduation.



Sullivan Middle School Beta Club once again has been nationally recognized as a 2017-18 National Beta School of Distinction. At the convention, Sullivan Middle School student, Maddie Hurst (Grade 7), was elected as the state level Beta president. Sullivan Middle School also won the state competition in Living Literature, Division 2 Songfest and Division 2 Tower of Power. Many individual students found success in the competitions as well. Eight Sullivan Middle School students finished in the top three in various individual State Beta competitions.

The Carlisle Middle School Science Olympiad Team advanced to State after placing second in the regional competition. The team collected four first place awards, seven second place awards and one third place award.

Sullivan Elementary School competed in Spell Bowl and earned second and third place in their division. Students also competed in Math Bowl and placed second and third in their division.

eLearning: Southwest School Corporation conducted eLearning days on Feb. 16 and Feb. 19 to make up days missed in January. Overall, the eLearning days were a success and surveys from parents, students and teachers will provide the corporation with valuable information to improve future

eLearning experiences. The survey showed 85 percent of students and 80 percent of parents prefer some form of eLearning experience to make up inclement weather days. The majority of students and parents would like to eventually see those eLearning days conducted on the actual inclement weather day.

School Safety: In the wake of the recent events across the country, I want to reassure the stakeholders of Southwest School Corporation that the safety and security of our students and staff is our highest priority. Our schools have emergency preparedness plans developed in collaboration with local police and fire departments, Sullivan County Emergency Management and the Indiana School Safety Academy. Each school's safety plan outlines procedures in the event of a crisis.

Southwest School Corporation staff receive training on the specifics of our emergency preparedness plan and we conduct periodic safety drills. Each school has specific safety procedures for entry into our schools and engagement with our students. We appreciate your support and cooperation as we enforce these protocols for the safety of our staff and students. We will continue to learn and evaluate safety practices to strengthen our emergency preparedness plan.

School safety is a shared responsibility. Thank you to our parents, students, staff and the community for working together to keep our schools a safe learning environment!

Join the Success at Southwest! Southwest School Corporation is pleased to offer **open enrollment** to students in Grades K-12 living outside of the district. If you would like to learn more about how your child can pursue excellence in academics and benefit from a wide-variety of athletic and academically-enriching extracurricular activities, contact us at 812-268-6311. One of our staff members will be happy to assist you!

Thank you for your support of the Southwest School Corporation. **We are the best. We are Southwest!**

– Chris Stitzle, Superintendent

Registration for the 2018-19 School Year

Carlisle Elementary and Middle School

July 31, 2018from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and
Aug. 1, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sullivan Elementary School and Sullivan Middle School:

July 31, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sullivan High School

Early enrollment for students not currently attending Sullivan High School:

May 29, 2018, and May 30, 2018..... from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

New student enrollment:

Aug. 2, 2018, and Aug. 3, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Returning students:

Aug. 6, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Freshmen Orientation

Aug. 7, 2018..... at 6 p.m. in the Sullivan High School Auditorium.

SES Offers Sensory Support to Students

The Sullivan Elementary School Sensory Room is a therapeutic space that helps children calm and focus themselves so they can be better prepared for learning and interacting with others. The room has versatile equipment and spaces that provide personalized sensory input and helps students return to the classroom ready for learning. Approximately 50 students use the Sensory Room daily under the supervision of a trained staff member.

"The Sensory Room is a place for personalized sensory input for brains and bodies that have sensory needs," Sullivan Elementary School Principal, Mrs. Phegley, explained.



Chad Page enjoys his sensory break.

Sullivan Middle School Embraces Career and Technical Education



Students constructed boats out of common materials and tested their creations in a boat race.

Sullivan Middle School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program focuses on developing students' Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills. The program embraces hands-on and project-based learning and promotes STEM careers.

Grade 6 teacher Mr. Piantedosi and Grade 8 teacher Mr. Wagaman help to oversee the program. To his students, Mr. Piantedosi emphasizes technology's relevance to almost anything. He says he works to "tie other subject matter into the course to show students how technology envelops all aspects of education."

Some of Mr. Piantedosi's class projects have included creating boats out of recyclable materials and building bridges to hold weight. Mr. Wagaman emphasized that technical skills gained will carry students into high school and beyond.

"These are skills that these students will find useful not only as they move through their high school classes, but throughout their lives," he said.

Carlisle Elementary School Learns Through Robotics

This year, Carlisle Elementary School launched its first robotics team. Led by Mr. Phillips, the team serves as an avenue for great learning. By participating on the team, students get an introduction into technical careers.

"This is a great opportunity for students to learn collaboration skills and problem-solving skills," said Mr. Phillips. "Students get the opportunity to see how these skills can pay off later. We talked a lot during our season about how this can translate to their adult life."

Students Embrace Advanced Math Skills

The Carlisle Elementary Math Club, open to students in grades 4-6, competed at the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) Math Bowl competition this semester. Mrs. Cassidy and Mrs. Beller worked with students once a week for more than two months to prepare for the competition. According to Mrs. Cassidy, this allows for students to "excel in math" and "can help them to be interested in other programs offered at the middle school and high school level."

We strive to help students develop a lifelong curiosity for exploring and gaining new knowledge.

Carlisle Middle School Science Olympiad Team Excels

Carlisle Middle School's Science Olympiad team competed in the regional Science Olympiad competition in February. The team earned a total of 12 medals, including four gold medals, seven silver medals and one bronze medal. The events included hands-on science projects, labs and tests. The team placed second at Regionals.

The team went on to compete in the state competition in March. Despite not earning any medals at state, the team was recognized for their hard work. Miss Bright, Science Olympiad Coach and Science Teacher, said that at the State competition "the kids worked hard and had some great moments."



Courtney Denham and Caroline Page participate at State Competition.

STGEC TC Statewide Transfer General Education Core Technical Certificate

Students at Sullivan High School may take advantage of the challenging and diverse curriculum that provides them with the opportunity to earn the STGEC TC (Statewide Transfer General Education Core Technical Certificate). They earn this technical certificate by receiving at least 30 college transcripted credits in six general education areas. Courses taken to earn the STGEC TC count toward general education college requirements at any Indiana state institution of higher learning.

Ivy Tech offers the majority of the technical certificate courses and awards the credential. Indiana State University also provides key courses that help students meet the STGEC requirements. All STGEC TC classes offered by Ivy Tech come at no cost for Sullivan High School students, and costs associated with classes offered by ISU are minimal.

In the first year of the program, two members of the Class of 2016 received the certificate. Last year, this number grew to 14 students, and currently 19 members of the Class of 2018 are on track to receive the certificate.

"I am able to take multiple classes in my major as a freshman at ISU, and I am currently considered a junior," Trey Powell, a member of Sullivan High School's Class of 2017 and current first-year student at ISU, said. "This will allow me to graduate a year early, as well as complete my master's degree in five years."



You're Invited

The Southwest School Corporation School Board meets at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the SWSC Central Office at 1502 N. Section St., Sullivan, IN. You are invited to attend these meetings. Please contact the office in advance at (812) 268-6311 for verification.

School Board

Grant BryantPresident
 Jerry Wilson Vice President
 Barbara Rotramel Secretary
 Jon Bobbitt Member
 Mitzie Badger Member

Contact Us

Carlisle Elementary and Middle School.....(812) 398-3851
 Sullivan High School.....(812) 268-6301
 Sullivan Middle School..... (812) 268-4000
 Sullivan Elementary School.....(812) 268-3341
 Office of Administration.....(812) 268-6311

Our Website Address

www.swest.k12.in.us/administration/

All-School Calendar

May 26.....Sullivan High School Graduation
 Aug. 8..... Teacher Professional Development Day (no school for students)
 Aug. 9.....First Day for Students in the 2018-19 School Year
 Sept. 3.....Labor Day (no school)
 Oct. 9..... End of First Nine Weeks Grading Period
 Oct. 15-19 Fall Break (no school)
 Nov. 21-23 Thanksgiving Break (no school)
 Dec. 21..... End of Grading Period
 Dec. 22 - Jan. 2.....Christmas Break (no school)
 Jan. 2.....Teacher In-Service Day (no school)
 Jan. 3.....Second Semester Begins



There is so much to smile about at Southwest Schools!

SOUTHWEST Connections

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Well Wishes to These Newly Retired Teachers and Staff!



Mr. Cox

When the end of the school year rolls around, three individuals with a combined 88 years of service at Southwest School Corporation will retire. To honor their dedication, we've highlighted their careers below. Thank you, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Noble, and Mrs. Nash!

Mr. Cox has served as an art teacher at Sullivan High School for 38 years. He established a long-time legacy as a coach within the district and also served as the Sullivan High School Assistant to the Athletic Director.

Mrs. Noble started teaching for Southwest School Corporation in 1983. In addition to teaching business, she has coached a variety of district teams and has served as Sullivan High School's Beta Club Sponsor. Of Mr. Cox and Mrs. Noble, Sullivan High School Principal, Dr. Jenkins, said, "Tony and Karen are not just 'teachers.' Tony Cox and Karen Noble embody the spirit that is Sullivan High School!"

Mrs. Nash worked for Southwest School Corporation in a variety of roles for more than 15 years. Her roles included teacher aide, administrative assistant and nurse aide. She started with the district in 2002. Of Mrs. Nash, Susan M. Tincher, BSN RN, district nurse, said, "I could always count on Janice; she was such an asset to the Nurse's Offices at Southwest School Corporation!"



Mrs. Noble



Mrs. Nash



Congratulations to our valedictorians! Front row, from left, Reagan Pirtle, Josey McKinley, Janea Willis. Back row, from left, Gabriele Burkhart, Shane Garner, Emily Walker. Missing from picture: Sydney Akers.