

SOUTHWEST

Connections

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Sullivan Middle School's 6th grade Agriculture class collected insects while studying entomology. Students learned to identify insect parts and structure, collect insects in a pollinator habitat and used online ID tools to identify the insects.

Superintendent's Message

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year at Southwest School Corporation! The Southwest family thanks you for giving us the opportunity to educate and inspire your children. It



is our goal and mission to provide a quality education that inspires our students to reach their potential and excel to new heights. We have had a very busy summer preparing our facilities for our students to have a great school year!

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the SWSC community and I truly look forward to working together during the 2018-19 school year. The team at SWSC values

the opportunity to continue collaborating and building relationships with the students, families and the entire SWSC community. We are thankful for your continued support and commitment to excellence in education.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are the Best! We are Southwest!

Sincerely,

Chris Stitzle, Superintendent
Southwest School Corporation
EDUCATE. INSPIRE. EXCEL.

Students Learn About Kindness Through Wonder

To launch the new school year, Sullivan Elementary School hosted Dr. Michael Goodman, hospitalist at Riley Hospital for Children, as part of their Kindness Mission event. Dr. Goodman used his story of living with Treacher Collins Syndrome to teach Sullivan students about embracing differences and being kind to all.

Treacher Collins Syndrome -- the disease that the main character in the book turned movie, "Wonder," lives with -- has evident external differences associated with it.

"Dr. Goodman spoke on his life, kindness, making good choices, learning what we can control, self-confidence and anti-bullying," Sullivan Elementary School principal, Samantha Phegley, explained.

The event acted as a bridge from last year's launch of the Kindness Mission. As part of this initiative, students studied the "Wonder" story through various reading assignments. All students then attended the movie as a field trip.

"We felt this was the perfect way to start the school year -- reminding students to be kind, tolerate differences in others and be a good friend," Phegley said.



Dr. Michael Goodman spoke to students at Sullivan Elementary about accepting differences.

New Sullivan Middle School STEM Course

Sullivan Middle School is offering a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) course for students in seventh and eighth grades. The course, intended to teach students problem solving skills through design strategy, runs for nine weeks and is available to students during the fall and spring semesters.

STEM teacher, Chad LeDune, explained that it will be very beneficial.

"Communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking are 21st century skills that are promoted through the STEM activities that we do," he shared. "We provide relevant challenges and real-world problems to students and they use these skills to meet the challenges or solve the problems."

Curriculum for this STEM course caters appropriately to students' ages; however, both grades will concentrate on similar themes. The learning experiences integrated into each grade's course include creative recycling, bridge challenges, a robotics strategy board, catapult design, drone racing course design, the Sullivan Middle School garden design and wind turbine design.

LeDune noted, "Offering more classes that promote innovative ways of thinking and doing enables students to experience the benefits of committing to a process and learning from the challenges that come with real world problem solving."



Chad LeDune's eighth grade STEM class recently studied perpetual motion, electricity and magnetism. Students were challenged to build a turbine blade system that would transform the most kinetic energy into electricity.

Southwest School Corporation Secures Competitive Lilly Endowment Inc. Grant

Southwest School Corporation was awarded a \$172,400 first-round comprehensive counseling implementation grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Comprehensive Counseling Initiative for Indiana students in grades K-12. SWSC is using this four-year grant to provide counseling services that support SWSC's vision to prepare all students to be career-ready, responsible citizens who are academically, socially and emotionally equipped to compete and prosper in an ever-changing global society. SWSC's Comprehensive Counseling Advisory Team established six cornerstone strategies for the counseling program redesign, and we are pleased to highlight two of these made possible through the Lilly Endowment grant.

SWSC Adds Career Coach, Launches Resource Center

A strategic partnership between Southwest School Corporation and Ivy Tech Community College in Terre Haute provides for the dedication of Tammy Young, Ivy Tech college connection coach, to solely serve SWSC students in the combined role of college connection coach and SWSC career coach. Young will operate out of the newly-created Career Resource Center, which will serve as the college and career-readiness domain hub for SWSC, with both the coach and the center filling in missing pieces and gaps in current SWSC career and college-readiness programming. The CRC, located at Sullivan High School, is made possible through a grant received from Lilly Endowment, Inc. as part of the Endowment's Comprehensive Counseling Initiative for Indiana's K-12 students. Young is available for individual



Tammy Young serves in the Career Resource Center.

and group meetings for students and their families on various topics including: careers, dual credit, college applications and scholarships. She is currently working with the Sullivan County Chamber of Commerce and planning future programming, including a Fall 2018 meeting in the CRC for area business and industry representatives to gather input for career education, create strategic partnerships and develop student internship opportunities. An open house for the community will take place 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 23.

Middle School Counselor Joins SWSC

Adolescence is a time of rapid growth and change. Every adolescent faces unique challenges, both personally and developmentally, that can have an impact on academic achievement. As part of SWSC's comprehensive counseling redesign and the Lilly Endowment, Inc. Comprehensive Counseling Initiative grant, SWSC recently hired Krista Wells to serve as middle school guidance counselor. Wells earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work and recently completed her master's degree in Counseling Psychology, with an emphasis on School Counseling. She is sharing her time between Sullivan Middle School and Carlisle Middle School to help SWSC ensure all students are socially and emotionally healthy, have the opportunity to experience academic success, and acquire career-readiness in a safe and caring environment.



Krista Wells, Middle School Counselor

Wells is enjoying getting to know students and staff. Recently, she spoke with students about college scholarship programs, took students on a college field trip and hosted college and career speakers who spoke to students about the importance of leadership and community engagement. And, along with offering individual counseling services, Wells also implemented a suicide prevention awareness program to educate students.

"My goal is to provide support and services to empower students, parents, school staff and the community," she explained. "My passion is serving youth and their families and I look forward to helping them in any way that I can."

Carlisle Elementary and Middle School Wrap Up Library Renovation

Carlisle Elementary and Middle School's exciting library renovations are nearly complete! Highlights of the nearly 40-year-old library's renovation include a new circulation desk, projection screen, carpeting, study tables and chairs, benches, as well as mobile and wall shelving units, among other updates.

"We are excited to provide our students and staff with an updated library with comfy seating, nice lighting, updated shelving units and brand new carpeting," Principal Glenda Jones said of these new additions to the library.

Jones elaborated on the students' excitement about their newly redesigned space.

"Our students are excited to be able to visit the newly renovated library," she explained. "The brightness is very appealing and the students love the new comfy seating."

The library renovation also brings renewed opportunities for learning. Jones went on to say that the new projection screen will help teachers "enhance their (the students') visit to the library."

In addition, the new shelving will expand the library's reading resources and will be an asset to the Book Fair. "The mobile shelving is wonderful and can be moved during the Book Fair and other special activities," she went on to say. "The book selection has been expanded to meet the needs of all students' interests."

Over the past year, the school has received funding from Smithville Charitable Foundation, WIN Energy Operation Round-Up, Sullivan County Community Foundation, and SWSC Capital Projects Fund for these renovations. Most recently, the school received a gift from 100 Women Who Care for the renovations.

What a great revitalized resource the library will be for student learning!

Students are already enjoying the updated library with comfortable seating, improved lighting, updated shelving units and new carpeting.



Librarian Paulette Perkinson reads to fourth grade students in the renovated Carlisle Elementary and Middle School library.



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

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Contact Us

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 and Middle School (812) 398-3851
 Sullivan High School (812) 268-6301
 Sullivan Middle School (812) 268-4000
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Our Website Address

www.swest.k12.in.us



Caleb Jones was named the 2018 "King of the Court." More than \$10,000 was raised to support the Luke Jones Scholarship Fund and the Pediatric Oncology Unit at Riley Hospital for Children.

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Sullivan Middle School Beta members placed 5th in the "Lead Outside the Box" competition at the 2018 National Convention in Savannah, Georgia. The team was presented the problem, "sick building syndrome." They developed a detailed solution and presented it to a panel of judges. The SMS Beta National Team: Sophie Hurst, Giuseppe Leone, Drew Baker and Gavin Jenkins.



Kindergarten students made applesauce and used their five senses while learning about the letter "A."

All-School Calendar

Oct. 15 - 19 Fall Break, No School
 Nov. 21 - 23 Thanksgiving Break
 Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 Christmas Break