

# SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Home of the Lobos!



**Lobos News**

**Winter 2017-18**

## Message from Principal Goertz:

Hello South STRONG Families!

We are so honored to have been allowed to serve your families this first semester. As we continue to develop a STRONG community of learners here at South, we have been met with many challenges. Our community welcomed 150+ more students than we anticipated would attend South MS this year! While this is great news for our community, it has presented us with new challenges in ensuring every South MS student is known, valued and inspired! Our community continues to strive to connect with our students to support them to success.

As a result of having the additional students on campus, in late September and early October, we hired 4 additional teachers and a Dean of Students, Anne Butterworth. These new staff members have worked hard to immerse themselves in South STRONG. Each of them are enhancing our South STRONG community and helping to make us better for our students.

One of the challenges we have faced this year has been with communication. Please make sure you are following us on Facebook or checking in on the website from time to time. We also have automatic phone calls, emails and text messages that go out each Sunday evening with the latest, most up to date information. If you are not receiving one of these communications, please reach out to our family liaison, Kim Diggs, and she will get you all set up!

We also continue to host Family Nights, South Accountability Meetings, Parent Coffees and other events that bring your family's voice to our planning and supports. We need to hear from you! Please follow our Facebook page or check out our website for additional information, dates and times!

Our #1 priority is to create a safe environment for all of our students and staff. Often times, our students know about a potentially challenging situation even before we are informed. If they are worried about keeping their anonymity, they can access Safe2Tell Colorado 877-542-7233 or go to <https://www.safe2tell.org/>. This number is also located on the back of their student school ID's.

On the note of student school ID's, please make sure that your student is wearing their ID every day to school. This helps us to ensure that only South MS students are on campus.

We look forward to continuing to serve our South STRONG students, families and community.

**-Courtney Goertz, Principal**

### Aurora Public Schools Mission:

In partnership with our community, we accelerate learning for all students to develop the knowledge, skills and character necessary to shape successful futures.

### Aurora Public Schools Vision:

Every student shapes a successful future.

### South Middle School Mission:

We create challenging learning environments that foster collaborative critical thinking, provide relevant learning experiences and empower self-directed goal setting for students to become STRONG citizens who will success in post-secondary opportunities and compete in a global workforce.

### South Middle School Vision:

Learn. Inspire. Lead. Empower.

### South Middle School STRONG Values:

Success, Trust, Respect, Optimism, Noble-minded & Grit

#### MIS #1:

Identify, implement, and monitor systems and skills necessary for highly effective professional development initiatives aimed at improving teacher/leader effectiveness.

#### MIS #2

Identify, implement and monitor systems and structures for student data reporting and standards based unit/lesson planning.

#### MIS #3

Identify implement and monitor the trajectory of talent growth using systems and skills necessary for highly effective observation and feedback aimed at improving teacher effectiveness.

**South has a New APP!**

Beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, south middle school will be adding a new way to make communication easier and more efficient with our parents and community!

We are very excited to launch our new South Middle School App!

Be sure to download our App and get the latest on school news & calendar events, parent portal, parent resources, and push notifications!

\*More information coming soon!



**Important**

**Dates to Remember**

- 12/20- Parent Coffee 8:45 am
- 12/21- Early release at 11:30 am
- 12/22-1/5- WINTER BREAK NO SCHOOL
- 1/8- Classes resume
- 1/11- Family Learning Night 5:45-8:00 pm
- 1/15- Martin Luther King Jr Day- NO SCHOOL
- 1/19- Parent Coffee 8:45 am
- 1/19 Quarter 2 Awards Ceremony
- 1/23 – Lobos Got Talent! (talent show)
- 1/31-Early Release at 11:30 am
- 2/6- SAAC Meeting
- 1/24- WED Fundraiser (Skate City)
- 2/16- Parent Coffee
- 2/19- President’s Day- No school
- 2/22- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 3/6- Music Recital
- 3/9- Teacher Workday-No school

**Mark Your Calendars!!!**

**South and RISE Colorado Present  
Family Learning Night  
Thursday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>  
5:45-8:00 pm at South Middle  
School**

**Don't miss it!**  
**\*\*Food \*\*Door Prizes**  
**\*\*Childcare for children 3-9 yrs old**  
**Contact Family Liaison Kim  
Diggs for more info.**

We are South  
Strong!

- S**-Success
- T**-Trust
- R**-Respect
- O**-Optimism
- N**-Noble Minded
- G**-Grit

**WEB Fundraiser with**



Valentine’s Day Skate Party  
February 14<sup>th</sup> 4:30-6:30 pm  
\$5.00 each skater

**the more skaters we have, the more \$\$ we earn**  
**Ride the Skate City Bus from South after school!**  
**(Space is limited)**



**GoFundMe: New Risers for South!**

Dear Parents and Community,  
We need your help raising money for new risers for the music department!  
Below is a link to our GoFundMe page.  
Please consider donating and share the link with your friends and family!

<https://www.gofundme.com/new-risers-for-south-middle-school>



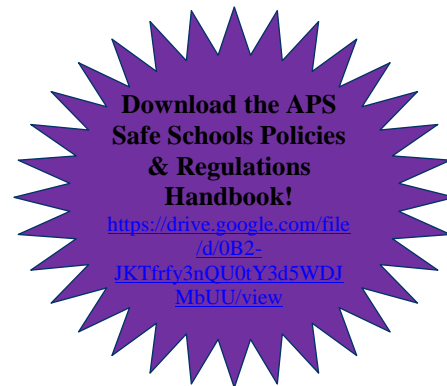
**DON'T FORGET.....**

**Parent/Teacher conferences February 22nd 4:30-7:30 pm**

Please take this opportunity to check in with teachers. Conferences are limited to 10 minutes and Spanish interpreters are available. Please contact Mrs. Diggs if you need interpretation in another language.

**Attendance reminders....**

Please call us if you student will miss school due to illness or injury. You may leave a message with first and last name of student, reason for absence and who is calling. A call is requested for each day of absence. A doctor's note is required to excuse absences of 3 or more consecutive days. Contact our attendance clerk Mrs. Hull, if you have questions!



**Parent Coffees 8:45 am**

December 20<sup>th</sup>  
Immigration/Know Your Rights

January 19<sup>th</sup>  
Health and Wellness

February 16<sup>th</sup>  
College/Career Readiness

Contact Family Liaison Kim Diggs for more information or to suggest a topic!

**ELA Parent Advisory Council—EPAC**

Aurora Mental Health will present information for parents about **Bullying**.

February 7, 2018 9:00-11:00 am  
Professional Learning and Conference Center (PLCC)  
15771 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave Aurora 80011

**Notes from the Nurse:**

A reminder that all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students require a TDAP upon entry to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Please be sure to send in a copy of any immunizations to the health office so Nurse Carmel can update our records.

Vision and hearing screenings for ALL 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will take place in February!

**Good Nutrition=Better Learning!**

Students need energy to function throughout the day and they are encouraged to eat breakfast and lunch in order to sustain the energy they need to learn. There are concerns that students are only eating chips and unhealthy snacks in place of lunch. Takis and hot Cheetos often cause stomach problems, so these foods are discouraged as they do not provide a good source of energy and can create stomach aches.

If your child needs to take medication at school a doctor's note is required. Please send it into the nurse along with the medication. The medication needs to be in the original bottle with student's name on it and instructions on how to administer. Thank You!

**Nurse Carmel Devlin**



**South Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Period Homework Support!**

Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (except early release days).

- 4:05-5:00 pm
- Meet in the media center
- All students are welcome!
- Get help with your homework, study skills and test taking skills.

Stop by the main office to request additional information!

**Lobos Got Talent**

Are you ready for the show of the year? Our South STRONG LOBOS will be putting on a performance of a lifetime in our annual talent show. We will have over ten acts that will show off our LOBO skills. Don't miss it! January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2018 at 6:00 pm, \$1 dollar entrance fee or 10 LOBO tickets.

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!**

Our amazing parent volunteers have contributed almost **100 hours** of their time to our school! These parents are making a difference in many ways: lunchroom help, clerical and classroom assistance, various projects, field trips and MORE! Contact Family Liaison Kim Diggs if you would like to volunteer. **TOGETHER WE ARE SOUTH STRONG!!**



**Athletics**

All 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students **MUST** have a current sports physical to participate! Contact Mr. Taylor for details.

Boys Basketball  
Girls Basketball  
Boys Soccer

January 8-February 24  
March 5th-April 28th  
March 5th-April 28th

### Helpful Links:

Have you recently changed your address?

Use our new Online Address Change Tool! (Just stop by South and we will walk you through the process if needed).

<http://aurorak12.org/2016/05/11/online-address-change-tool/>

### Don't Delay, Update Your Address TODAY!

### Please take a look at the attached Resources!

- SMS Calendar
- Preschool Screenings Now available
- Keeping Kids Healthy and Ready to Learn
- Family Learning Night #1
- Boys Basketball Schedule

### Lobos Winter Food Drive!

**Thank you Lobos community for supporting our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual winter food drive! Because of you we were able to make 35 food boxes and bags to give some families a little extra help this winter. Special thanks to the leadership and congregation of Parkview Congregational Church and The Connection Church. We appreciate your care and generosity!**



### Other News you can use!

#### School Messenger Text Messaging

APS is offering a new way to keep you informed about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. If your cell phone is on file at your child's school, you can now sign up to receive Text Message Notifications. All you have to do is *text the word "Yes" or "Y" to 67587*, and you are in!

The only requirement to receive text messages is that you have a valid cell phone number on file in Parent Portal. Please contact South's main office if you need to update your cell phone number. We are excited to offer this new service in addition to the phone and email notifications you are already receiving. Please note that although APS does not charge for this service, message and/or data rates may apply.



#### South's Off-Campus Policy

Dear Parents/Guardians,  
In order to ensure all South Middle School students' safety and security, We want to remind you that our school office hours are 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Therefore, we require that all south students be either in an after school activity/program or off- campus no later than 4:20 pm daily. As soon as the end of day bell rings, students have the opportunity to use our office and classroom phones to call home and/or head to an after school program.

A final announcement is made at 4:20 pm every day, advising students to be off-campus, whether it'd be waiting by the front gates for pick-up or heading home.

Any students that are found on campus and not in a program or with an adult **will receive as a consequence, Saturday school.**

We will continue to reinforce this policy throughout the 2017-2018 school year. Please call the main office if you have a specific concern or any questions regarding this policy.

Thank you!