

SGSC PARENT NEWSLETTER

October 11th-13th, 2023

From the Principal

Hello Everyone,

We are excited to see all of our Aggie Achievers tomorrow on 10/11/23! We are ready for another exciting week of instruction!

Hopefully, you all enjoyed the Fall Break with your children. We hope that they are ready to return to school - be present each day and ready to work!

As the weather begins to cool off and your children are wearing sweaters and jackets, please write their names (first and last) in the outerwear because they will often leave them lying around. This will make it easier to get the items back to their rightful owners instead of ending up in Lost and Found items.

Parents - we are asking that you please not text or call your students during the school day on their cell phones. Our policy is that there are no cell phones during the school day - they are to be put away in their bags. It is hard for us to manage this when they are using their phones to either call a parent or accept calls or texts from a parent - claiming that it is urgent. If you need to reach your child for an urgent matter, please call the office - 229-345-3033 and Miss Deborah or Miss Jill will make sure you speak with him/her. Thanks for helping with this matter.

We are having so many Achievers that are being checked out early throughout the week - especially on Fridays. Please remember - EARLY CHECKOUTS ARE DISCOURAGED AFTER 2:30 PM. Early checkouts after 2:30 PM are discouraged due to ongoing instructional practices that include remedial and acceleration opportunities for Achievers. In addition, students are also transitioning to various areas to prepare for dismissal. Please remember that unexcused 5 unexcused tardies and early checkouts will be counted as an absence as well. Although early checkouts are discouraged, we do realize that extenuating circumstances such as doctor's appointments and family emergencies will occur. We will make every effort to accommodate, but **please do not come to check your child out to simply avoid waiting in the car rider line.**

If you need a change in transportation, you must provide this IN WRITING. This can be through a note sent to school with your child or you can email transportation@sowegastemcharter.org to request the change. These requests should be in place no later than 1:30 pm on the day of the request.

Attendance - We are beginning our new attendance policy this year. The basics from this policy are as follows:

- 5 unexcused absences - you will receive a letter and attend a conference about attendance
- 7 unexcused absences - you will receive a letter with a reminder that your child can only miss 3 more days before he/she may be withdrawn from the school
- 10 unexcused absences - your child may be withdrawn from Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School

Reminders:

- If your child is absent, he/she will have 3 days to bring in their excuse after returning to school
- You may write up to 3 parent notes during the school year
- Your child will have 3 days to make up any missing assignments while he/she was absent from school

RECOGNIZE YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER(S): If you or your child would like to SHOUT OUT any staff member, please feel free by using the link: <https://forms.gle/ygfhcKDLA2Mm8Gtw5>. It is important that we recognize those staff members that are such an important part of your child's life - it makes them feel special as well!

Parents - I want you all to know that we value your ideas and thoughts at SGSC. If you, at any time, feel that you could provide information or ideas about ways to improve SGSC, please click here - <https://forms.gle/JiFECdiizhq7YSdj9> - and share. We may not be able to do everything that is recommended, but know that we will be open and listen. Thanks!

Below, I have included an image of our adopted Vision and Mission Statements for SGSC. We are so excited to be able to work with you all to accomplish both the vision and mission for our school!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to send me an email at galmon@sowegastemcharter.org.

Sincerely,
Ginger Almon

SGSC Elementary School PBIS Matrix					
	Bathrooms	Hallways	Classroom	Bus	Playground
S Be Safe Make choices that maintain the emotional and physical safety of our community.	*Wash hands, clean and sanitize *Leave cell phone in the classroom *Report unsafe conditions to teacher or staff member	*Wash hands, feet, and keep off the walls *Pick a teacher before leaving an outside door *Report unsafe conditions to teacher or staff member *Walk on the right side	*Produce class presentation *Wash hands and feet to yourself *Play outside *Sit in seat correctly *Keep chair legs on the floor *Wash hands, feet, hands, and avoid comments to yourself *Complete assignments from start to finish	*Wash hands and feet to yourself *Use the playground equipment correctly	*Wash hands and feet to yourself *Use the playground equipment correctly
P Be Persevere Continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty.			*Do your best - complete classwork and homework *Set goals for your		
R Be Respectful Be polite and take the other person's feelings into consideration.	*Give others privacy *Clean the spill area *Throw your trash and personal items in the garbage	*Pick up trash *Wash your hands, feet and body off the walls *Report unsafe conditions to staff and students *Pick and words *Respect other students' comments, opinions, and ideas *Welcome new students	*Respect environment and private property *Monitor your surroundings *Report your bus driver and monitor *Follow your teacher's directions *Include others when playing *Follow others the way that are used want to be trained		
R Be Responsible Always strive to do the right thing.	*Wash hands, feet, and keep off the walls *Pick a teacher before leaving an outside door *Report unsafe conditions to teacher or staff member	*Wash hands, feet, and keep off the walls *Pick a teacher before leaving an outside door *Report unsafe conditions to teacher or staff member *Walk on the right side	*Produce class presentation *Wash hands and feet to yourself *Play outside *Sit in seat correctly *Keep chair legs on the floor *Wash hands, feet, hands, and avoid comments to yourself *Complete assignments from start to finish	*Wash hands and feet to yourself *Use the playground equipment correctly	*Wash hands and feet to yourself *Use the playground equipment correctly

SGSC Middle/High School PBIS Matrix				
	Bathrooms	Hallways	Classroom	Bus
S Be Safe Make choices that maintain the emotional and physical safety of our community.	*Wash hands thoroughly *Leave cell phone in the classroom	*Walk on the right *Maintain safe distance *Plan free zone	*Follow class expectations *Ask to leave the classroom *Leave cell phone in the locker *Cell-Free Zone	*Wash hands to self - no touch zone *Stay seated *Sit in seat correctly - Bottom to bottom and back to back
P Be Persevere Continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty.			*Complete assignments - start to finish *Do your best - complete classwork and homework	
R Be Respectful Be polite and take the other person's feelings into consideration.	*Give others privacy *Throw your trash and personal items in the garbage	*Pick up trash *Wash your hands, feet and body off the walls *Report unsafe conditions to staff and students *Pick and words *Respect other students' comments, opinions, and ideas *Welcome new students	*Respect environment and private property *Monitor your surroundings *Report your bus driver and monitor *Follow your teacher's directions *Include others when playing *Follow others the way that are used want to be trained	
R Be Responsible Always strive to do the right thing.	*Wash hands, feet, and keep off the walls *Pick a teacher before leaving an outside door *Report unsafe conditions to teacher or staff member	*Wash hands, feet, and keep off the walls *Pick a teacher before leaving an outside door *Report unsafe conditions to teacher or staff member *Walk on the right side	*Produce class presentation *Wash hands and feet to yourself *Play outside *Sit in seat correctly *Keep chair legs on the floor *Wash hands, feet, hands, and avoid comments to yourself *Complete assignments from start to finish	*Wash hands and feet to yourself *Use the playground equipment correctly


Aggies are responsible, respectful, safe and persevere.

SGSC Vision

A focused, competitive, hands-on, and joyful learning environment for all students that will prepare them to become successful, gracious, scholarly citizens.

SGSC Mission

Provide distinguished and integrated instruction in an environment that cultivates respect, is inclusive of all, and lays the foundation for excellence and life-long learning.



AGGIES CELL PHONE POLICY

FROM BELL TO BELL - THERE IS NO CELL

- Students are not permitted to use cellular phones during school hours.
 - Cell phones should be turned off upon school arrival and students should store cell phones in their locker or bookbag upon arriving to homeroom. Cell phones may not be kept in clothing pockets.
 - Phones must be turned off at all times while in the school building. If a phone rings during class, the teacher will invoke the Cell Phone Use Policy. "Forgetting" to turn off the cell phone is not an excuse.
 - Use of a cell phone during a test will be considered cheating and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.
 - Students are prohibited from using a cell phone to take photographs or record video at any time on school property. This includes taking photographs or video recordings in restrooms, locker room areas, etc.
 - If a student violates the Cell Phone Use Policy, the teacher or school staff member shall confiscate the cell phone and take it to the office.
- First offense - the phone is taken away until the end of the day and kept in the front office.
 Second offense - the phone must be picked up by a parent or guardian.
 Third offense - either the student is assigned to ISS for two days or the phone is taken away for ten school days to be kept at the school parent's choice.
 Additional offenses - will result in the student not being allowed to have a cell phone on school property. Furthermore, students who do not adhere to these guidelines will be subject to other disciplinary actions.
- A student is required to hand over the cell phone and all its individual parts, including but not limited to the battery and memory cards, to a teacher or school staff member when requested. Failure to do so will result in ISS or OSS.
 - The student assumes all risks in bringing such cell phones and other electronic devices onto school property or to school related functions.
- www.swego.org/stemcharter.com

23-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR

2023-24

July 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Teacher Work Days		1st and Last Day of School		Holidays/Breaks	
Aug 4, 2023	1st Day of School	Nov 10, 2023	Veterans Day (obs.)	Feb 19, 2024	Presidents' Day
Sep 4, 2023	Labor Day	Nov 20-24, 2023	Thanksgiving Break	April 1-5, 2024	Spring Break
Oct 6-9	Fall Break/Columbus Day	Dec 18- Jan 2	Christmas Break	May 17, 2024	Last Day of School
Oct 9, 2023	Columbus Day	Jan 15, 2024	Martin L. King Day		

SGSC Cafeteria Information

Please remember all students will receive a free lunch and breakfast this year!

OCTOBER 2023 Southwest Georgia Stem Charter School BREAKFAST				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pancakes or a stack or Super Donut Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Orange & Raisin or Blueberry Muffin Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Chicken & Raisin or Muffin/Yogurt Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Breakfast Bagel or Honey Bun Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Fall Break
Fall Break	Fall Break	Super Donut or Chicken & Raisin Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Breakfast Bagel or Pancake or Muffin Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Breakfast Bagel or Strawberry Bagel Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk
Breakfast Bagel or Pancake or a Stack Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Chicken & Raisin or Blueberry Muffin Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	French Toast & Sausage or Muffin/Yogurt Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Breakfast Bagel or Super Donut Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Pig Tator or Honey Bun Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk
Super Donut or Honey Bun Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Breakfast Bagel or Blueberry Muffin Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Pancake or a Stack or Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Breakfast Bagel or Honey Bun Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Pig Tator or Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk
Pancake or a Stack or Muffin Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Halloween French Toast/Yogurt or Muffin & Yogurt Fruit Milk			

AGGIES SCHOOL FOODS MENU For the Week of: October 11th-13th, 2023				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST	BREAKFAST
FALL BREAK—NO SCHOOL	FALL BREAK—NO SCHOOL	Chicken & Biscuit or Super Donut Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Sausage & Pancake or Muffins Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk	Breakfast Bagel or Strawberry Bagel Cereal of Choice Fruit Milk
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
FALL BREAK—NO SCHOOL	FALL BREAK—NO SCHOOL	Chicken Tenders or PBJ Sweet Peas Mac-N-Cheese Fruit Milk	Chili Cheese Hot Dog or PBJ Glazed Carrots Chips Fruit Milk	Bar-B-Que Meatballs or PBJ Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Fruit Milk

OCTOBER 2023 Southwest Georgia Stem Charter School LUNCH				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Corn Chig or PBJ Sweet Peas Fruit Milk	Chicken Tenders or PBJ Green Beans Mashed Potatoes/Fruit Fruit Milk	Pizza or PBJ Corn Fruit Milk	Cheesburger or PBJ Sub Sandwich Fruit Milk	Fall Break
Fall Break	Fall Break	Chicken Sandwich or PBJ Sweet Peas Glazed Carrots Fruit Milk	Corn Chig or PBJ Sweet Peas Fruit Milk	Chicken Sandwich or PBJ Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Fruit Milk
Chicken Sandwich or PBJ Sweet Peas Glazed Carrots Fruit Milk	Corn Chig or PBJ Sweet Peas Fruit Milk	Mashed Potatoes or PBJ Green Beans Mashed Potatoes, Fruit Fruit Milk	Chicken Sandwich or PBJ Sweet Peas Fruit Milk	BBQ Meatballs or PBJ Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Fruit Milk
Chicken Sandwich or PBJ Sweet Peas Glazed Carrots Fruit Milk	Hot Dog or PBJ Sweet Peas Fruit Milk	BBQ Meatballs or PBJ Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Fruit Milk	Chicken Sandwich or PBJ Sweet Peas Fruit Milk	Pizza or PBJ Corn Fruit Milk
	Halloween Cheesburger or PBJ Sub Sandwich Fruit Milk			

Breakfast

Lunch

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SGSC

Mark your Calendars

October 11th - Students return to school

October 11th - Reports cards will be sent home - SIGN and RETURN

October 11th - 1st and 2nd grade field trip

October 11th - DH - Varsity Girls Softball vs. Terrell County @ SGSC - 3:30 pm (Senior night)

October 12th - Basketball Tryouts 3:30 - 5:00 in the gym

October 13th - 5th grade field trip

October 13th - Spaghetti Supper Pick Up

October 21st - Bass Fishing Tournament

October 23rd-25th - Aggies Mini Cheer Camp

October 25th - School Picture Retakes and Fall Athletic Pictures (Track, Football, Cheer, Softball - middle and high school)

October 25th - Senior Class Graduation Meeting at 11:00 am - Students only



SGSC SPORTS SECTION

The 2023-24 school year of Fall Sports is wrapping up soon. We have a double-header varsity softball game this week, region track meet coming up, and our last varsity football game soon. Middle school softball and football has ended for the year and we are very proud of their performance! Soon, we will begin basketball! Please try to make it to some of our upcoming games to support our Achievers who are working so hard on and off the field to be successful!

Basketball Tryouts will be held on Thursday, October 12th from 3:30 - 5:00

Fall Pictures will be taken for Cheer, Track, Football, and Softball on October 25th



Varsity

Softball



Home Games (Double-Header):
Wednesday, October 11th
vs. Terrell County at 3:30 pm & 5:00 pm

\$8.00 gate admission □ \$5.00 for students

*Aggie
Adventures*

AGGIES POSITIVE OFFICE REFERRAL




CHRISTIAN HAWKINS

Christian's teacher wrote, "Christian is such a good kid! He does absolutely anything asked of him. He works so hard for all of his teachers. He gives it his all every day. You can't help but smile when you are around Christian. He is hilarious and always the center of attention! He is a great kid with a bright future ahead of him!"

AGGIE ACHIEVERS

AGGIES POSITIVE OFFICE REFERRAL



JAYLAEH NICHOLS

Jaylaeh's teacher wrote: "Jaylaeh is such a bright spot in my day. She is always prepared, engaged, and excited about her learning. She has such a positive attitude and a ready smile. Way to be an achiever!"

AGGIE ACHIEVERS

AGGIES POSITIVE OFFICE REFERRAL




NATALIE BUTTOLPH

Natalie's teacher wrote: "Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Duke would like to recognize Natalie for being an outstanding student. She is working hard in all of her classes. Natalie is a fantastic reader. She has currently read over 400,000 words this school year. Way to go, Natalie! Keep on reading!"

AGGIE ACHIEVERS

AGGIES POSITIVE OFFICE REFERRAL



LINDA ORTIZ

Linda's teacher wrote: "Mrs. Duke and Mrs. Bell would like to shout out Linda Ortiz. She works hard in class, is well-mannered, and is always helping others. Linda has a big heart and shows kindness to everyone. Keep up the great work, Linda!"

AGGIE ACHIEVERS

AGGIE STAFF SHOUT OUT



MRS. KAYLA FOXWORTH

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA STEM CHARTER SCHOOL

AGGIE STAFF SHOUT OUT



MRS. AMY FERRI

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA STEM CHARTER SCHOOL







This Week's Video

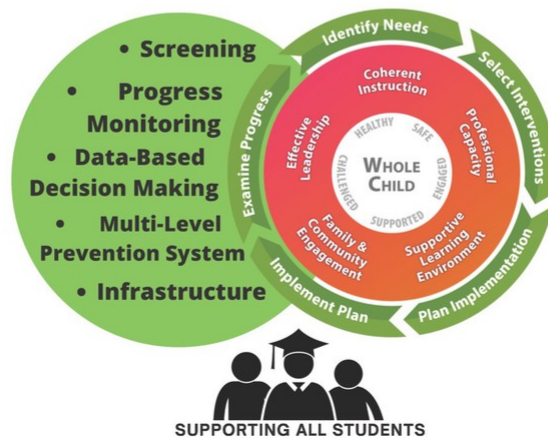
Structures and routines are very important!

Creating Structure and Rules for Your Child



Learn about
**Creating Structure
and Rules**

From the MTSS Coordinator



From our MTSS Coordinator....

Autumn

ATTENDANCE STRATEGIES

- TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GOING TO SCHOOL EVERYDAY.
- SET UP MEDICAL AND DENTAL APPOINTMENTS FOR WEEKDAYS AFTER SCHOOL.
- KEEP ATTENDANCE CHART AT HOME TO TRACK ABSENCES.
- IF YOUR CHILD HAS A SLIGHT STOMACHACHE, HEADACHE OR ALLERGIES, AND DOESN'T HAVE A CONTAGIOUS ILLNESS, SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL.
- RECOGNIZE YOUR CHILD FOR ATTENDING SCHOOL EVERYDAY.
- MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN BED EARLY AND THE ALARM IS SET FOR THE RIGHT TIME.
- IF YOUR CHILD CANNOT AVOID MISSING SCHOOL, CONTACT THE TEACHER FOR TIPS AND RESOURCES TO KEEP YOUR CHILD LEARNING.
- FIND A RELATIVE, FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR WHO CAN TAKE YOUR CHILD TO AND FROM SCHOOL IF YOU CAN'T.



High School Information

News from the Graduation Coach...

As I visit each of the high school homerooms to review graduation information, I've noticed that some of our achievers may not have a clear understanding of what a CTAE pathway entails. In case you are also curious about CTAE, I wanted to provide you with some important information.

CTAE stands for Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education. Currently, our school offers pathways in game design, marketing, and agriculture. Each of these pathways involves a series of three courses, concluding with an end-of-pathway assessment. Our goal is to ensure that all achievers complete at least one pathway during their time at SGSC.

It's worth noting that data has shown a higher graduation rate among students enrolled in CTAE classes compared to those who are not. Students in these classes acquire real-world skills and, in some pathways, have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized certifications. If you or your child have any questions about these pathways, we encourage you to reach out to either Dr. Page (CTAE Director) or myself. We are here to provide support and guidance.

Mrs. Greenway



FROM THE INSTRUCTIONAL COACH...

One of our goals this year at SGSC is to help achievers raise their Lexile scores. Lexiles are the measurement of a student's reading level. The higher their Lexile level, the more likely they are to

understand the material on class assignments, quizzes and tests. A child who reads on their grade's Lexile level is also more likely to have higher grades in all subject areas, since reading is part of every subject a student faces.

One way we are supporting students in raising their Lexile levels is to encourage them to read and take Accelerated Reader (A.R.) tests. Achievers in grades K - 5 have specific word count goals for each 9 weeks. Students in grades 6-12 have specific points they are encouraged to earn each 9 weeks. Please see the A.R. goals below and ask your child how many words/points they currently have.

We would love parents to support our effort in raising Aggie Lexile levels. Here are some ways you can help!

1. Ask your child what book they are currently reading.
2. Listen to your child discuss what their favorite part of the book is.
3. Remind your child to take an A.R. test once they finish a book.
4. Provide time at home for your child to read, this could be in the car, before bedtime, or reading to a pet.
5. Celebrate your child's successes. Let your child tell you how many words/points they have earned this week and praise them for doing so well!

Kindergarten

5,000 (2,500 1st qtr/2,500 2nd qtr)

First Grade

15,000 (7,000 1st qtr/ 8,000 2nd qtr)

Second Grade

25,000 (10,000 1st qtr/ 15,000 2nd qtr)

Third Grade

40,000 (20,000 1st qtr/ 20,000 2nd qtr)

Fourth Grade

50,000 (25,000 1st qtr/ 25,000 2nd qtr)

Fifth Grade

250,000 for the semester

Sixth Grade - Twelfth Grade

30 (15 pts 1st qtr/ 15 pts 2nd qtr)

ONE TEAM.

ONE MISSION.

NO EXCUSES.



Southwest Georgia STEM Charter School

Email: galmon@sowegastemcharter.org

Website: <https://www.swgeorgiastemcharter.com/>

Location: [185 Pecan Street, Shellman, GA 39886](#)

Phone: [229-345-3033](tel:229-345-3033)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/116256502053538>