

SGSC PARENT NEWSLETTER

January 22nd-26th, 2024

From the Principal

Hello Everyone,

We are excited to see all of our Aggie Achievers tomorrow 1/22/24! We are ready for another exciting week of instruction!

Parents - please speak with your child(ren) about social media and drama. We are seeing an uptick of students posting mean or threatening statements, videos, etc. in the evenings or on weekends. These events are not happening at school; instead, they are happening at home. Please consider monitoring your child's phone/social media usage. Perhaps, many of these students are not mature enough to handle a phone just yet and they are making bad choices.

Parents - please stay on top of your child's academic grades by checking the Infinite Campus Parent Portal to see their grades. If you do not have a login, please email me (galmon@sowegastemcharter.org) or Dr. Heather Page (hpage@sowegastemcharter.org) to get your login information for your child.

Please speak with your child about behavior as we begin the third quarter of school. We would like to have a lesser amount of referrals as we work toward the end of the year. Some of the most prominent behaviors that we saw during the first nine weeks included - vapes, disrespect toward others, and disruption of the classroom and learning. There are some non-negotiable behaviors that will not be tolerated on the first offense to include drugs and credible threats to others. It is imperative that we speak about these behaviors, so students will understand that consequences will be applied.

Parents of students that ride buses - PLEASE adhere to the requirements at each location because we cannot afford to lose the places that we are allowed to drop off and pick up at! If you cannot follow the rules, your child will not be able to ride the bus:

- Do not park on the grass or drive on the grass (already received a warning from Miller Supply Co in Cuthbert)

- Do not park near the gas pumps or block entrance of customers (already received 2 warnings from LocStop in Dawson)
- Do not speed through the location
- Be mindful of students exiting the buses
- Do not use profanity or disrespectful language to the drivers, monitors, or other parents and students
- Do not litter

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

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.

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.	*Keep it clean, clean and quiet. *Leave cell phone in the classroom. *Report unsafe conditions to a teacher or staff member.	*Keep hands, feet, and back off the walls. *Pick a teacher before getting on a hallway door. *Play with your feet. *Walk on the right side.	*Follow class instructions. *Pick to leave the classroom. *Play with your feet. *Keep chair legs on the floor. *Keep hands, feet, back, and wheelie arms to yourself.	*Keep hands and feet to yourself. *Play seated. *Pick to talk correctly. *Bottom to bottom and back to back.	*Keep hands and feet to yourself. *Use the playground equipment correctly.
P Persistence Continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty.			*Complete assignments from start to finish. *Do your best - complete classwork and homework. *Be proud for your work.		
R Be Respectful Be polite and take the other people's feelings into consideration.	*Give others privacy. *Clean the wall door. *Throw your trash and litter into the garbage.	*Pick forward. *Keep your hands, feet and body off the walls. *Personal property to staff and students.	*Remember the way you would want to be treated. *Include others when playing. *Pick kind words. *Respect other students' personal property, papers, and items. *Remember your students.	*Respect environment and private property. *Remember your seat. *Remember your personal property. *Respect your bus driver and monitor. *Respect personal property to be treated.	*Follow your teacher's directions. *Include others when playing. *Pick out others the way that you would want to be treated.
R Be Responsible Always strive to do the right thing.	*Pick up trash, keep things in their place, and keep your hands and feet to yourself.	*Pick up a trash can that you made to work with. *Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter.	*Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter.	*Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter.	*Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter. *Pick up trash and litter.
	0 - Silent	0 - Silent	Varies	2 - Appear Talk	0 - Outside Voice

Aggies are responsible, respectful, safe and persevere.

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 your hands thoroughly. *Keep hands to self. *Leave cell phone in the classroom.	*Walk on the right. *Maintain safe distance. *Run free zone.	*Follow class expectations. *Ask to leave the classroom. *Keep chair legs on the floor. *Cell-Free Zone.	*Keep hands to self - No touch zone. *Play seated. *Sit in seat correctly - Bottom to bottom and back to back.	
P Persistence 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 people's feelings into consideration.	*Give others privacy. *Throw your trash and personal items in the garbage.	*Pick forward. *Allow students to learn while passing classrooms. *Admire walls and work with your eyes only.	*Give time weekly to be an active learner (read, write, speak, or listen). *Set goals for your learning. *Respect other students' comments, opinions, and ideas. *Remember new students.	*Respect environment and private property. *Walk in appropriate areas. *Remember your seat/ownership. *Respect your bus driver and monitor.	
R Be Responsible Always strive to do the right thing.	*Keep it clean, quiet, and report any issues immediately to an adult.	*Get where you're going when walking with your class, stay in line. *Stay on task. *Be prepared. *Complete make-up work within time limit.	*Attend duty and be on time. *Pick up trash. *Remember your belongings. *Follow your bus driver's rules. *Request problems right away to an adult.	*Remember your belongings. *Follow your bus driver's rules. *Request problems right away to an adult.	
	0 - Silent	0 - Silent	Varies	2 - Appear Talk	

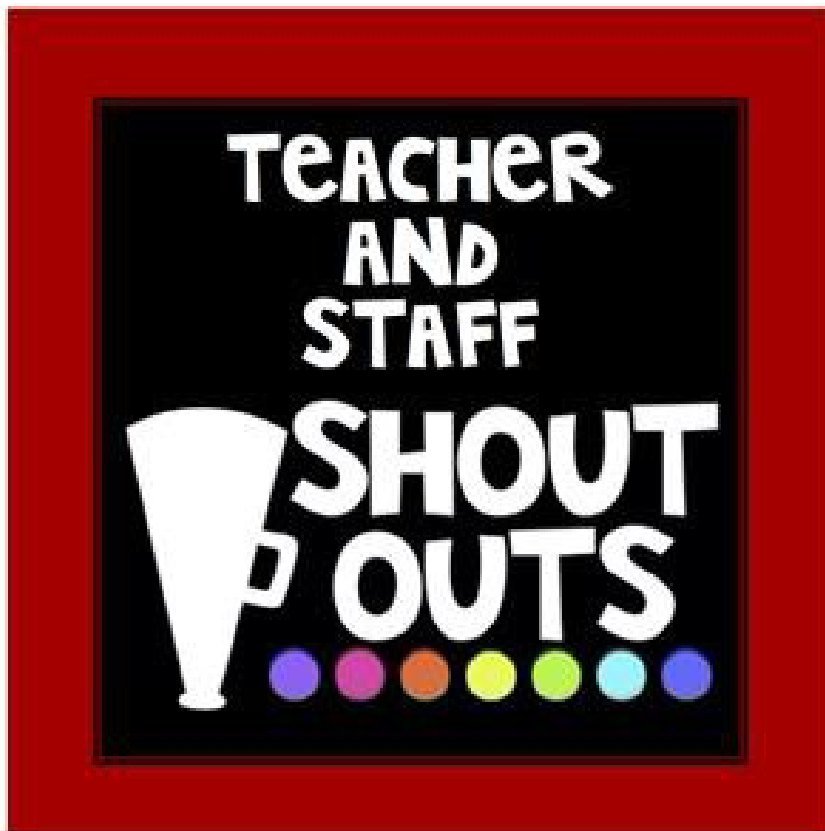
Aggies are responsible, respectful, safe and persevere.

SGSC Vision

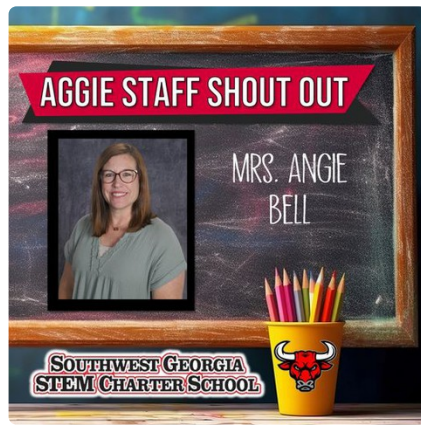
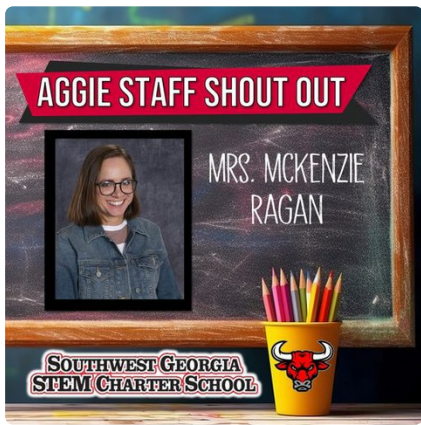
A focused, competitive, hands-on, and joyful learning environment for all students that will prepare them to become successful, gracious, scholarly citizens.

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.



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/A8UJaB1268TKqx6N17>. 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!



23-24 SCHOOL CALENDAR

2023-24

July 2023							August 2023							September 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30	31																			
October 2023							November 2023							December 2023						
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						
January 2024							February 2024							March 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3						1	2
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						
April 2024							May 2024							June 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		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!

SOUTHWEST GEORGIA STEM CHARTER SCHOOL

100 DAYS BRIGHTER

THURSDAY JAN 25

Wear your brightest NEON colors and sunglasses to celebrate 100 days of school!

AGGIE'S SERVICE PROJECT

benefitting the **HOLDING HOPE ANIMAL RESCUE**

SGSC students in our gifted classes are sponsoring a service project to gather items for the local animal rescue program, Holding Hope.

HERE ARE A LIST OF ITEMS THAT CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE SCHOOL:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BLUE DAWN DISH DETERGENT DRY DOG FOOD (Purina Pro Plan - NOT chicken and rice as our dogs are allergic) PURINA ONE (NOT chicken due to allergies) DRY PUPPY FOOD (Purina Pro, Purina One Puppy or Hill and Science Diet Puppy) WET DOG FOOD (canned or frozen) CLEANING SUPPLIES (paper towels, sponges, scrub brushes, etc) OLD TOWELS & BLANKETS DOG TOYS & TREATS GARBAGE BAGS LAUNDRY DETERGENT (Any HE approved) 6 FT OR GREATER LEASHES or SLIP LEADS MOPS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOP BUCKETS ANY DOG MEDICATIONS YOU NO LONGER NEED: Flea/Tick prevention (Doramectin - Panacur, pyrantel, ivermectin) Heartworm prevention (Iberol supplements) XXL OR XL PUPPY PEE-PEE PADS RESCUE DISINFECTANT PROBIOTICS HEATERS, HEAT LAMPS, & FANS for Outdoor Kennels SUNSHADES or COVERS for Outdoor Kennels
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WE NEED YOU

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT SGSC BY FRIDAY, FEB 2

Aggie Adventures



AGGIES POSITIVE OFFICE REFERRAL



Easton's teacher wrote: "I believe Easton Hunter deserves a positive office referral because he is a student that shows excellent green behavior! He models what to do from the time he comes in the room until the end of the day! He tries really hard during carpet time, and it shows with all of the letters that he has learned so far!"

EASTON HUNTER

AGGIE ACHIEVERS

AGGIES POSITIVE OFFICE REFERRAL




Josalyn's teachers wrote: "Mrs. Duke and Mrs. Bell would like to recognize Josalyn for being a hard working and responsible achiever. She always takes her time so that she can turn in her best work. She's not afraid to ask for help when needed. If Josalyn is absent from school, she will make up her work and get it turned in as soon as she returns without being asked. Thank you, Josalyn, for being a responsible achiever. We are proud of you!"

JOSALYN HOUSTON

AGGIE ACHIEVERS

AGGIES POSITIVE OFFICE REFERRAL

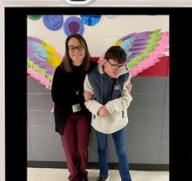


Weston's teacher wrote: "When another achiever was struggling with a writing assignment, Weston stepped up and helped talk him through it. Weston showed a lot of patience and was not going to allow his classmate to get a low grade. He showed up the Aggie way and was responsible and respectful!"

WESTON KELLEY

AGGIE ACHIEVERS

AGGIES POSITIVE OFFICE REFERRAL



Braden's teacher wrote: "Braden has been working very hard to get all of his work completed. He has been so motivated lately, and we are so proud of him! Keep up the great work, Braden!"

BRADEN MOSS

AGGIE ACHIEVERS

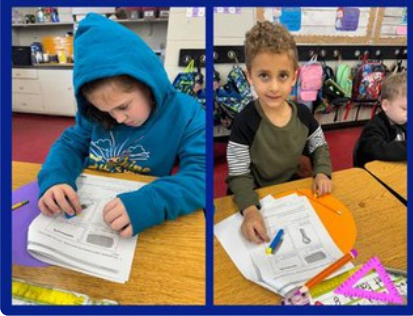
Congrats

Mrs. Amy Ferri



Chattahoochee Plains RESEA
GATAPP
Completion Ceremony
January 17, 2024





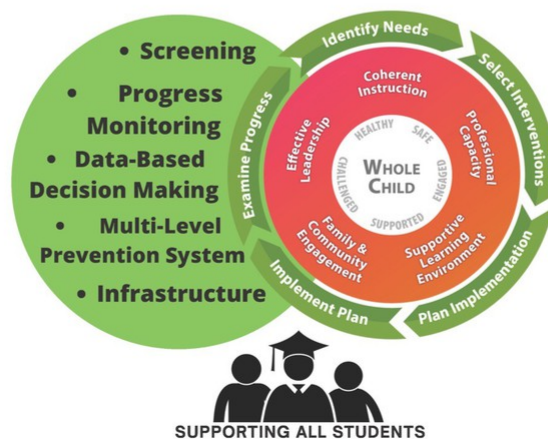
Video of the Week

We encourage our teachers to be Mr. Jensens!

Inspirational Video- Be a Mr. Jensen- MUST WATCH!!



From the MTSS Coordinator



From our MTSS Coordinator....

Parents,

Our sincere “thank you” for attending (in person or by phone) MTSS/tiered meetings for students who are being provided additional support. All team members are equally important, and with parent participation, achievers are given every opportunity to perform at their highest potential level. Another huge piece of providing this opportunity is through PBIS (Positive Behavioral Incentive System). We are continuing to encourage students to earn as many PBIS points as possible by being safe, respectful and responsible. So how do you teach your child to be respectful?

1. Model respect. Children look to adults for clues about behavioral expectations. If they see their caregivers and teachers treating others with respect and compassion, they’re more likely to do the same. Children are master imitators. If we expect them to always say please and thank you, we must act as role models and do the same.
 2. Start with yourself. Too often adults make the mistake of demanding respect from children while treating children disrespectfully—for example, by shaming, lecturing, or being critical. This can happen when our “buttons get pushed” or we’re tired or frustrated. Teachers and caregivers must commit to unlearning ineffective or harmful ways of responding to children and model the respectful behavior they expect from kids. We can train ourselves to think before we speak and choose our words carefully, knowing that children imitate what they see and hear.
- It is our sincere hope that our achievers get to attend the party at the end of the month. Keep earning those points!

Early is best, but it's never too late,

Leslie Presley



News from the Graduation Coach...

I will continue to share important reminders below. The focus for all high school achievers should be to show up daily, be prepared, and work hard in the classroom. This will keep them on track to reaching their goals.

Here are some friendly reminders for our seniors:

- Letters went home for anyone interested in making an appointment with Katie Minich for FAFSA help. **The deadline to return these will be this Friday.** I will be in touch once it is all finalized.
- Make sure you are on track to graduate. I have started meeting with each senior to review what they need to graduate in May.
- **Ensure you have completed your FAFSA or applied for your FSA ID.** Remember, both the parent and students must have their own ID.
- Pay attention to deadlines for admission, financial aid, testing, and housing applications/deposits

- Contact the admissions offices of schools you have applied to, ensuring they have received everything they need from you.

I am here to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out. Have a great week!

Courtney Greenway

**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>



Ginger Almon

Ginger is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

