

SMS Sunday Message: October 14

Good evening, Spartan Family! This is Matthew A. Mason, proud principal of Sandusky Middle School, and here are a few announcements for the week of October 15 - 19. This message has been forwarded to our SMS family via email, and will also be available on our website under the Sunday Messages tab.

- We have a few sporting events this week. On Monday, October 15, our volleyball team will be at home for a match with Amherst Middle School at 4:30 pm. On Wednesday, October 17, our volleyball team will be away versus Monelison Middle School for a 5 pm match. Finally, our football team will be playing away at Rustburg Middle School at 5pm. Let's come out and cheer our student-athletes to victory! Go Spartans!
- Every day in America, 160,000 kids skip school because they are afraid of being bullied. Rachel's Challenge is a movement in schools across America that is helping to positively transform the culture within those schools and communities. When students are inspired to make their school a positive environment full of acceptance and encouragement, they find one that is free from bullying. Rachel's Challenge is coming to LCS on Thursday, October 18. The organization will do a presentation for E.C. Glass and **ALL** three middle schools. All 6th-grade middle school students will travel together to the ECG auditorium at 9:30 am to hear the presentation. 7th and 8th graders will view the presentation via live streaming at their respective school. If you feel that you do not want your child to hear this message, contact Mr. Mason at 434-515-5350 before Tuesday, October 16, to opt your child out. Please go to <https://rachelschallenge.org> to learn more about this presentation and view a promotional video to get a feel for what this is all about.

- Report cards will be sent home on Friday, October 19th. Please spend time looking at your child's grades and discussing successful strategies that have been used so far, as well as what needs to happen to improve in classes if need be. Please reach out to teachers with any concerns. This second 9-weeks will be even better than the first! Let's work together to make it so!
- Student attendance has always been a key component in student success. This year, the Virginia Department of Education has added Chronic Absenteeism as a factor in a school's accreditation status. Sandusky Middle School is VERY close to becoming a fully accredited school. Our students and staff are working diligently to have our building recognized for reaching full accreditation. Parents, please make every effort to have your student attend school **EVERY DAY**. All absences, whether excused, unexcused, or because of poor behavior, negatively impact our accreditation goals, as well as put the student behind in learning. Our motto this year is Teamwork Makes the Dream Work! You are just as important to Sandusky Middle School accreditation as the students and the staff. Please reach out to Mrs. Michelle Wooldridge, our school truancy officer, with any attendance concerns. We are in this together, and value all you do as fantastic SMS parents, grandparents, and guardians!

Please check today's email, our Twitter account (@Spartans_SMS), and our website for more important information on school events. We hope everyone had a great, restful, and safe Fall Break! We will be back at it again on tomorrow, October 15! Again, this is Matthew A. Mason, and SMS is pleased to serve our community!