

Volume 2 | Issue 10  
May/June 2018

# Swope Middle School GT Magnet

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*To Our Wonderful  
Parents: Thank  
You for sharing  
your children with  
us!*

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*New Elective  
Offerings for next  
year*

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*8<sup>th</sup> Grade College  
Night is May 21<sup>st</sup>  
at 6:00 p.m.*

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May and June will be an incredibly busy time both here at Swope and within the Magnet. First on our to-do list will be wrapping up standardized testing—see below for the latest testing schedule. Next, our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be completing their college research project and presenting their plans for high school on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Throw in a few music field trips and concerts, along with the build-up to culminating projects and final exams, there won't be a quiet moment. We encourage you to work with your child to help create a time management plan so he/she doesn't run into the proverbial wall while checking Infinite Campus on a frequent and regular basis. We also encourage you to work in some fun family time as well.

As we move towards the end of the school year, we want to say a big THANK YOU to all our parents. Without your collective help, our program wouldn't be the exciting place it is for our students. Whenever we have a need, a parent always steps up, helps out and contributes. From the seemingly mundane—making copies for us—to the incredible—chaperoning field trips—and everything between, you've done it all for us. We want you to know that without all of your help, we wouldn't be able to do half the things that we do with your child. Thank you so very much for all you've done and all you've given our program this year. Most importantly, thank you for sharing your children with us; they each give us so many reasons to smile.

We are pleased to announce that we have four new elective offerings, taught by Magnet Teachers for next year! If any of these electives sound interesting to your child, please contact Mrs. DellaBordella or Mrs. Kopel to have your child's elective selections adjusted:

**Writer's Craft:** A journalism class that will focus on communicating in print, digital and film. Students will learn the interviewing, researching, and writing aspects of journalism.

**Creative Writing:** This course will focus on writing skills needed to create an original story as well as other types of writing that require an author's creativity and originality—like poetry and playwriting. We will also explore techniques and skills used by non-fiction and opinion writers that can improve the voice and style in all writing.

**Math Counts:** Math Counts is a national math competition organization. Students learn critical thinking and problem solving in a fun, competitive, and collaborative environment. Students build not only math skills, but friendships as well. Competitions will be held outside of school time.

**Financial Math:** This course is a real-world application of math in relation to stocks, investments, and business. Students will learn about the success and failure of business, as well as about personal financial goals and decision making.

8<sup>th</sup> Graders are working hard ahead of the annual rite-of-passage College Night that will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Students are looking forward to giving everyone a peek into their future as they commit to high school administrators, counselors, teachers, and student leaders what they will accomplish in high school! Don't miss out on this amazing event!

Please know that we pack as much curriculum as we can into every single minute your children are scheduled to be in class. Please try to avoid scheduling appointments and/or trips when school is in session. While we understand that this doesn't always work out, we do appreciate your efforts to have your child here every day. Thank you!

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*Year End Testing  
Information*

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The last quarter of the school year is always filled with lots of standardized testing. Please be sure to refer to our Swope GT Website for the latest information regarding testing: [Swope GT Magnet Testing Information](#). Below is a chart of testing dates. Please do everything in your power to ensure your child is here on these days, so your child completes all testing on time. Our website has lots of links for you to learn more about the testing and what is required of your child during these testing times.

	ELA PT	ELA CAT	Math PT	Math CAT	Algebra EOC	Geometry EOC	Science CRT
6th Grade	April 10 234	April 19 234	April 30 234	May 9 234			
7th Grade	April 17 123	April 26 123	May 7 123	May 16 123			
8th Grade	April 16 456	April 18 567	April 25 456	April 27 567	June 5* 456	June 1** 345	May 4 456

\*All Algebra I and Integrated II students will take this test

\*\*All Integrated II students will take this test

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*WCSD  
Contingency Day:  
June 11<sup>th</sup>*

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We have had two snow days this year. **Students will make up one of the days on Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> and students are expected to be in attendance on this day.** Students are scheduled to be released at approximately 11:15 for the summer break—specific details to follow as we get this information. No lunch will be served on this day. The second snow-day make up will be held on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup> and is a faculty professional development day.

Here is the latest information from WCSD regarding Contingency Days:

[Make-up \(Contingency\) Days](#)

Any scheduled school day that is canceled due to inclement weather must now be made up at the end of the school year using make-up (contingency) days. **The dates of June 11, 12, and 13 have been designated by the District and state as contingency days.**

[Graduations](#)

As a result of June 11-13 being designated contingency days, graduations for our high schools have been moved back to avoid being held on contingency days and to avoid any possible disruption to the graduation schedule. As a result, the majority of **high school graduations will be scheduled on June 14, 15, and 16.** Information on dates and times of individual high school graduations will be released separately.

Remember, if you have any questions regarding the Swope Magnet, the first place to check is on our team website; then if this doesn't answer your question, please email us—we've set up convenient links to our email addresses on our website.

Our website is: <https://www.washoeschools.net/swopegt>

## Important Dates for Upcoming Events

May 17	Swope Spring Band Concert, 6:00 p.m.
May 21	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Swope GT Magnet College Night, 6:00 p.m.
May 22	Swope PFA meeting, 6:00 p.m., Swope Library
May 24	Swope Spring Orchestra and Choir Concert, 6:00 p.m.
June 5	Swope PFA meeting, 6:00 p.m., Swope Library
June 6	No Early Release
June 7	Year-End Parties—all day! ☺
June 11	Last Day of School!!! ☺
July 30	Panther Days for new Swope Students
August 6	First Day of 2018-2019 School Year!!! ☺

## May Classroom Previews

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*Mr. Bodensteiner*

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**7th Grade:** The students will explore the French Revolution and its concepts along with the comparisons to the American Revolution. Following this unit, we'll examine the nascent stages of the American republic which will include an analysis of the first three Presidential administrations, with special emphasis on Jefferson's time in office. The students will study the War of 1812 within Madison's administration, and finish the month looking into the Antebellum period prior to the Civil War. The students will be required to read a variety of primary source documents, and participate in a few Socratic seminars, where they'll critically analyze the documents and discuss their significance.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The students will analyze the causes of the 1929 Stock Market Crash, and how it led to the Great Depression. They'll explore the Depression itself, and then begin looking into World War II and the Holocaust. A few of the concepts they'll examine in this unit are mob psychology, dictatorships, nationalism and fascism. Finally, the students will analyze the leadership of Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt. They can expect to analyze not just primary source documents, but primary source film footage as well. This unit can be rather emotional due to the malevolent nature of the Holocaust and the war itself.

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*Mrs. Hoy*

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**8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA:** The guiding question for the fourth quarter is “How Does Perseverance Impact Resilience?” To answer this question, students are enjoying reading the wonderful memoir Rocket Boys. Students are engaging in a variety of activities to fully understand and analyze this novel. Additionally, this novel study ties in with the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter College PBLU project students are working on in GT Challenges. Students will also be responsible for three independent reading assignments over the course of the fourth quarter: a choice novel, a memoir of their choice and a reading about resilience. Additionally, students will work on literary devices and vocabulary as related to this book.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade GTC:** Students will complete their College Research Project and will answer the essential question ‘What do I need to accomplish in high school to be a viable candidate for my dream college?’ Students will present their findings to parents, high school counselors, faculty, and administration on Monday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The focus in May is completing the formal research paper and developing a creative presentation that answers the essential question. To finish out the school year, students will create a project that answers our year-long essential question ‘Why Does Resilience Influence Success?’

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade GTC:** Using the framework from the national ‘This I Believe’ website, students will craft an essay that exemplifies one core value that guides their daily life for their exemplification essay. After completing this essay, students will turn to creatively responding to the year-long focus on identity and sharing with their classmates what they’ve learned this year. Students will also continue to work on grammar skills via NoRedInk.com and creating their own personal grammar book.

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*Mx. Irwin*

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**Accelerated HS Integrated Math 1:** We will wrap up geometric construction, building shapes with only compasses and straight-edges. Then our last instructional unit of the year will introduce basic concepts of probability and discrete mathematics, after which we will begin reviewing for the semester exam.

**Accelerated HS Integrated Math 2:** After we finish up our last geometry unit, we will begin studying probability and discrete mathematics, and then finish our algebraic content with statistics and probability, incorporating principles of counting like combinations and permutations. After this, we will begin reviewing for our *two* end-of-course exams.

**Accelerated Algebra 1:** We will finish modeling exponential growth and decay this month, and then continue to our last instructional units on statistics and probability.

Analyzing data and combinations of various categories of objects will round out our year, before reviewing for our semester exam.

**Honors Algebra 2:** We will review basic concepts of trigonometry and introduce the trigonometric concept of the unit circle, before finishing our learning with a more complex analysis of statistical variation and probabilistic counting. After these last instructional units, we will end the year by reviewing for our semester exam.

**GT Math Support (Academic Intervention):** With exams on the horizon, this month's discussion topics will pertain to test anxiety and performance anxiety. Strategies to ground oneself when anxiety strikes, and to subvert negative cognitive feedback loops, will be top priority to help students demonstrate all that they are capable of come test time.

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*Mrs. Leslie*

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**7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA:** For the month of May in reading, students will be working with Animoto to create a book production, similar to a movie trailer. Before Spring Break, students chose their groups and the classic book they would read. Now that their book has been read, they get to create the most interesting production they can in about 2 minutes! Students implement pictures, songs, and words to meet their goal: to persuade others to read their book! It's not as easy as it sounds; with limited word availability and the tone set by their pictures and music, students must get to the heart of their book's characters, plot and theme in quick succession.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade GTC:** For the month of May in writing, students will finish their problem/solution essays and gear up to create a power point presentation about their problem/solution. Students learn how to create and present a power point using clear, informative slides and effective presentation skills. All of their past hard work in speaking in front of an audience get put into play in this final demonstration. After this, they are ready to be officially launched to 8th grade!

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade GTC:** Using the framework from the national 'This I Believe' website, students will craft an essay that exemplifies one core value that guides their daily life for their exemplification essay. After completing this essay, students will turn to creatively responding to the year-long focus on identity and sharing with their classmates what they've learned this year. Students will also continue to work on grammar skills via NoRedInk.com and creating their own personal grammar book.

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*Mr. Shader*

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**Accel 6 Math:** We'll be finishing up our unit on 3-dimensional geometry with a look at surface area (using nets) and volume of various 3-d figures such as prisms, pyramids, and cylinders. After that, we'll move into ratios and proportions including unit rates, scale factors, and graphing.

**Accel 6 Science:** Our work in Earth History continues with a unit on igneous rocks. We'll identify the characteristics that differentiate igneous from sedimentary rocks by looking at the presences of crystals. We'll be using salol to model the cooling of igneous rocks as it relates to crystal formation. We'll also differentiate igneous rocks based on crystal size.

**Accel 6 History:** Our unit on the Middle Ages continues with a look at the development of feudalism in the M. Ages, the Roman Catholic church in Medieval Europe, life in Medieval towns, and the decline of feudalism. The remainder of the year will be spent on our Empire simulation which is a long-term activity/competition that focuses on the creation and sustenance of a simulated empire.

**Accel 6 English:** Our novel, [Sophie's World](#) is getting good! We're very excited to see what "world" Sophie/Hilde is living in! Along the way, we'll study Spinoza, Locke, Hume, Berkeley, the Enlightenment, Romanticism, Hegel, Kierkegaard, Marx, Darwin, and Freud! Whew! That ought to cover it! ☺

**Integrated 1:** We'll spend some time on compound inequalities before moving into Geometry: area and perimeter of circles and quadrilaterals and the Pythagorean theorem. This will be followed with a unit on 3-dimensional geometry that covers volume and surface area.

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*Ms. Wilbrecht*

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**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science:** As we wind down the year we will be taking advantage of electromagnetic energy and building our own solar ovens from scratch and testing them by making S'mores. We will be finishing the year with SHARE, please be on the look-out for the permission slip to attend.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Biology:** Students are busy learning about geologic time and its relationship to how life has changed on Earth. We will be taking a closer look at how life is organized next, specifically differences between the Archaea, Bacteria, and Eukarya. We will be finishing the year with SHARE, please be on the look-out for the permission slip to attend.

## Summer Break Camps!

[Kids University](#)

[Challenge Island](#)

[Discovery Museum](#)

[KidScape Productions](#)

[Galena Creek](#)

[City of Reno Youth Camps](#)

[University of Nevada Summer Engineering Camps](#)

[Nevada Wolfpack Summer Sports Camps](#)

[Davidson THINK Summer Institute](#)

[Lake Tahoe Music Camp](#)

[Northern Nevada Girls Math and Technology Program](#)

[Sierra Nevada Journeys](#)

[Girl Scout Camp](#)

[Boy Scout Camp](#)

[Super Camp](#)

[Summer Institute for the Gifted](#)

[Summer Discovery](#)

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*Fun Things To  
Do Over Summer  
Break!!!*

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