



SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS LETTER

October 5, 2026

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear SMS Families,

Over the past two weeks, our school community has made an incredible start to the new academic year. From establishing strong classroom routines and procedures to completing our beginning-of-the-year i-Ready diagnostics, our students and staff have shown remarkable dedication. We also enjoyed engaging with so many of you during our Open House and Back-to-School events.

The main lesson from these past two weeks is that strong partnerships between home and school create the foundation for student achievement. When we maintain open communication, explicitly teach and support classroom expectations, and work together as a community, our students thrive. Thank you for your continued engagement as we build on this momentum.

Warm regards,
Mr. Roderick Phoenix
Principal, South Middle School

UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCTOBER 1-31- NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9TH - ORANGE COUNTY EARLY DISMISSAL DRILL (15 MINUTES EARLY)
- MONDAY, OCTOBER 12 - NO SCHOOL | COLUMBUS DAY/ INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15- SMS RECEIVERSHIP PUBLIC HEARING- 4:30PM- 5:30PM
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15- HISPANIC HERITAGE NIGHT- 5:30PM-7:30PM
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 - CONVERSATION WITH THE PRINCIPAL- 7:30AM
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 - 1/2 DAY FOR STUDENTS; 1/2 DAY STAFF DEVELOPMENT- SMS DISMISSAL- 10:15AM
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31- RED RIBBON WEEK
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28- SMS PICTURE DAY
- WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28- NECSD AND CITY OF NEWBURGH TRUNK OR TREAT- 6:00PM
- OCTOBER- TBD- HAUNTED HOUSE

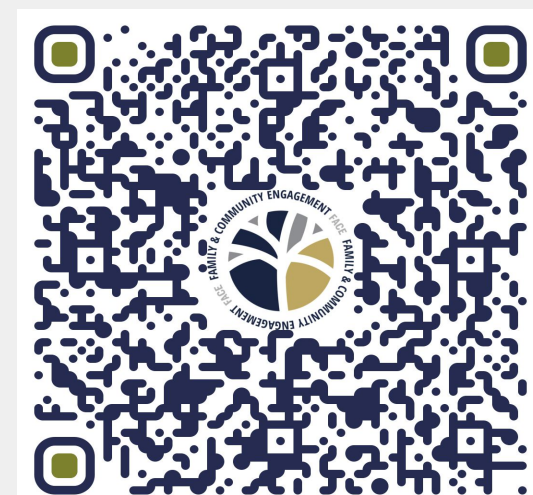


PARENT SURVEY

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW:

[SMS FALL FAMILY SURVEY 2026](#)



EVERY
GOLDBACK
every day



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SMS Host Back to School BBQ -Parent Bootcamp and Title 1 Presentation on 9/17/26.



We are inviting all parents to join the SMS Parent Teacher Group(PTG). If you are interested please contact:

Email Address
southptg2223@gmail.com

Remind App Code
Text @southmsptg to 81010

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL
33-63 Monument Street
Newburgh, NY 12550
845-563-7000

PRINCIPAL
Mr. Roderick Phoenix
rphoenix@necsd.net

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS AND DASA COORDINATORS
6th Grade- Mr. Beckner Joseph bjoseph@necsd.net
7th Grade- Ms. Erika Berrios eberrios@necsd.net
8th Grade- Mrs. Takisha Reid treid@necsd.net

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER
Ms. Janell Sims- jsims@necsd.net
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Ms. Julissa Hernandez- juhernandez@necsd.net
845-563-7013

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST
Kisha Brown- kibrown@necsd.net
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Leslie Quijada lquijada@necsd.net
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SCHOOL COUNSELORS
6th Grade- Mr. Kareem Donaldson kdonaldson@necsd.net
845-563-7021
7th Grade- Ms. La'Shawn Martinez lmartinez@necsd.net
845-563-7016
8th Grade- Ms. Latoya Lewis llewis@necsd.net
845-563-7018

ATTENDANCE
845-563-7046

HEALTH OFFICE
845-563-7022

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COORDINATOR
Mr. William Morgan wmorgan@necsd.net
845-563-3414

MCKINNEY-VENTO LIAISON (Families in temporary living situations)
Ms. Kori Rogers kr Rogers@necsd.net
845-568-6846

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SCHOOL PLEASE VISIT NEWBURGHSCHOOLS.ORG