



# SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS LETTER

December 2025

## PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear SMS Families,

As December unfolds and we approach the winter break, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your incredible support of South Middle School.

Thank you for attending our recent parent-teacher conferences and for coming out to support our students during the Bits & Skits showcase. Your presence at these events means the world to our students and staff. Most importantly, thank you for your daily support at home—ensuring your children are ready to learn, completing homework, and maintaining open communication with our team. Your partnership makes all the difference.

This fall, I've witnessed remarkable student unity and productivity throughout our building. Our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders have risen to the challenge, supporting one another and demonstrating what it means to be part of the SMS community. Their growth has been inspiring to watch.

As we prepare for the winter break, please note that school will close on **December 24, 2025**, and reopen on **January 5, 2026**. Please ensure your child continues to dress warmly for the colder weather and has appropriate winter gear each day.

Wishing you and your family a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and cherished moments together.

With gratitude,  
Roderick Phoenix  
Principal  
South Middle School  
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Tel. (845)-563-7003

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**December 3rd:**  
**21st Century starts**

**December 10th:**  
**Town Hall Meetings**

**December 11th:**  
**Winter Concert**

**December 15th:**  
**Picture Retake Day**

**December 16th:**  
**5th Grade Selection  
Tour-Rescheduled date**

**December 19th:**  
**PPS Town Hall (SNUG)**

**December 23rd:**  
**½ day students**

**December 24th– January 2nd:**  
**Winter Break**







## PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE CONTINUED

### 21st Century After School Academic Support

The 21st Century after school academic support program begins on December 2nd. We are offering academic support in ELA, Math, Science, and social studies, and English as a New Language. If you have a student that needs academic support please fill out this form: [21st Century Student Application](#)

### WELCOME Takisha Reid New Assistant Principal

I'm honored to introduce myself as your new Assistant Principal and excited to join such a dedicated and passionate community of educators. With 25 years of experience in the field of education, I bring a deep commitment to supporting staff, uplifting students, and fostering an environment where every scholar can thrive.

In addition to my professional experience, I am also deeply connected to this community as a Newburgh resident. I am the proud mother of three daughters who all received a high-quality education from the Newburgh Enlarged City School District. I have seen firsthand the strength, resilience, and potential within this district, and I am honored to now serve in a role that allows me to give back.

As I step into this position, I am filled with enthusiasm and optimism. I look forward to collaborating with each of you as we continue to build positive relationships, strengthen our school culture, improve student behavior, and reinforce the importance of a quality education for all scholars. Together, I am confident that we can create an environment where every student feels supported, challenged, and inspired.

