



SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS LETTER

November 2025



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Families,

As we step into November, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support and partnership throughout the month of October. Your engagement and commitment to our school community have been instrumental in creating a positive learning environment for all of our scholars.

EXCITING NOVEMBER PROGRAMMING

We have some wonderful opportunities planned for our students this month that will contribute to their personal growth and development. I'm pleased to share that we will be hosting two important presentations focused on violence prevention and conflict resolution:

Breaking the Cycle Presentation

We are honored to welcome Breaking the Cycle, a powerful nonviolent conflict resolution program that emphasizes forgiveness, respect, and the unique value of each individual. Through personal stories and meaningful dialogue, this presentation will help our scholars develop skills in conflict resolution and understand the importance of choosing positive responses in challenging situations. For more information about this program, please visit: [Breaking the Cycle](#)

SNUG Program Collaboration

Additionally, we are partnering with the SNUG (Streets N Guns Unity for Growth) Street Outreach Program, a New York State evidence-based violence prevention initiative. SNUG works to engage youth in positive activities and provides mentorship, conflict mediation, and connections to educational and job opportunities. This collaboration represents our commitment to providing our scholars with resources and support beyond the classroom.

Learn more about SNUG at [NY State SNUG Program](#): or visit the [Yonkers YMCA SNUG Page](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4TH

There is a ½ day of school for students. periods will be 1,2,3,& 4 for 7th & 8th grade and periods 1,2,3,& 5 for 6th grade. All students will be dismissed at 10:15

NO SCHOOL

VETERAN'S DAY

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH

END OF 1ST MARKING PERIOD

NOVEMBER 14TH

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

MONDAY NOVEMBER 24TH 5 - 8 PM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH 7:30 - 10:15 AM

THANKSGIVING BREAK

NOVEMBER 26TH-28TH

Thanksgiving break will begin on Wednesday, November 26th. There is no school for students. The district will be closed on Thursday, November 27 & Friday, November 28

SMS MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECTION TOUR

DECEMBER 2ND



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE CONTINUED

ADDRESSING STAFFING NEEDS

I want to address a matter that I know is important to all of us: our current staffing situation. We are fully aware that some of our positions are currently being filled by substitute teachers. Please know that we are taking this matter seriously and are actively working to fill these vacancies with qualified, permanent staff members. We understand the value of consistency and continuity for our scholars, and we are committed to providing them with the stable, high-quality instruction they deserve. We will keep you informed of our progress in this area.

HISPANIC HERITAGE NIGHT

South's Hispanic Heritage Night took place on October 23rd. We had an amazing turnout. Students prepared a night of cultural enjoyment with dancing, food, and singing. All student performers did an amazing job! Thank you to all of our families, students, staff, PTG, and community members/restaurants for volunteering and making this event a memorable event.

GRATITUDE

Each month South Middle School practices different SEL themes that align with the academic year, starting with preparation or self-awareness in the fall and covering topics like gratitude, self-management, empathy, and responsible decision-making throughout the year. Common themes include self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. South's SEL theme for the month of November is **GRATITUDE**. Gratitude is the feeling of appreciation for what one has, often in response to a kindness, gift, or fortunate event. Throughout the month of November, SMS will be showcasing gratitude in our school community.

RIDING FOR FOCUS

Riding for Focus (R4F) is a school-based cycling education program that uses bicycling as a tool to promote physical, emotional, and social well-being among youth. The program is part of Outride, a national organization that supports cycling in schools. South Middle School is amongst 400 schools across the country to participate in the Riding for Focus program. Click the link to see the pictures. [SMS BIKE PROGRAM](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

November promises to be a month of growth, learning, and community building. Thank you again for your partnership and for entrusting us with the education of your children. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our scholars. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

With gratitude and in partnership,

Roderick Phoenix
Principal

