

Sanford Middle School



October Newsletter

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

SMS offers exciting opportunities for our students to become involved in various clubs, teams, and activities. We encourage all students to become involved! Some of the afterschool clubs include:

STEAM Team
Student Leadership Club
Homework Club, Dr. Who,
Jazz Band, Art Club

The Activity/After School Bus is available for student's doing clubs and afternoon sports. The bus leaves SMS at approx 3:50. Please be advised that the bus does **NOT** stop at your home. There are dedicated stops throughout the city the bus stops at for parent pickup. Please visit sanford.org/middleschool

Absence/Tardy Line



If your student will be absent or tardy, please leave a message on our voicemail with student's name and the reason as to why student is absent or tardy.

We ask that dismissals are not left on voicemail or on the Infinite Campus Portal.

Please call the office directly.

It is extremely important that students arrive **on time** every day. Class starts at 7:40.

SURVEY REQUEST



Please click the link below if you would like to share feedback with the Sanford School Administration. We welcome your input on the positive experiences your child has had at SMS this year, as well as any thoughts or suggestions for areas of improvement.

<https://shorturl.at/IBPIg>

SMS PIE SALE FUNDRAISER

Pie Sales have started!

Orders need to be submitted by Friday, 10/17. The top seller in each grade will receive a \$25 gift card and the chance to pie a staff member.

Students should **ONLY** sell to family and friends, not door-to-door. Checks are made payable to SMS.

Pies may be picked up on Thursday, November 13th, from 4:00-6:00 in front of SMS. Please mark your calendars!



UPCOMING EVENTS

PTA Meeting - October 16th, 6pm - Cafeteria

1st Qtr. Progress Reports go home - Oct. 9th

NO SCHOOL - October 10th & 12th
(Inservice Day and Holiday)

Picture Retake Day - October 15th

5th grade Movie Night - October 16th
4:00-6:00pm

Haunted Woods - October 23rd 6:00-8:00pm
Gowen Park

Challenge Day - Grade 7 - October 27th & 28th

Parent/Teacher Conferences -
Wednesday, Nov. 12th
(3:30-6:00pm)

Thursday, Nov. 13th
(2:30 - 7:00pm)

BAND/CHORUS

7/8 District Honors Auditions
November 5th @ Westbrook Middle School

Winter 7/8 Band & Chorus Concert
December 10th 6:30pm @ SHS

7/8 District Honors Festival (selected students)
February 27 - 28 @ Westbrook MS

Band Fest!
March 10th 6:30pm @SHS

MBDA Concert Band Festival (8th grade only)
March 25 or 26 TBD @ Merrill Auditorium

7th & 8th grade Spring Band & Chorus Concert
May 12th 6:30pm @SHS

Memorial Day Parade
May 25th Meet at Sanford Armory at 9:30am

FunTown Music Festival
May 30th Performance @ Loranger MS



Whole grade-level lunches are in full swing at SMS! This gives students the opportunity to enjoy time with their peers in larger table groups and build connections across the grade. Thank you, students, for showing positive behavior and helping make this possible---we appreciate your efforts in keeping it a success!

Sanford Backpack

Program News

September 30 2025



Many students are looking for grab and go snacks for before clubs, games or practice. Any individually packaged items are good! Please drop off snacks you'd like to donate to SHS main office!

bag #'s

SHS 8	PRE K 5
SMS 30	MCS 32
CJL 106	SPE 78

Thursday distributions at

$shs+sms=180+$

#'s are increasing

coming up!!

- this Friday find us at Alumni Stadium cheering on the Spartans football team and selling  DUCKS!! Help us raise funds to fill all of our bags with food!

WHAT WE NEED?

individual snacks

plastic bags *Email me for more info*

Thursday and Monday

afternoon volunteers



Use the QR Code below if you are
interested in signing up for
Aquaponics!

**scan
HERE**



Or go to this website!

<https://forms.gle/tcqpdv7EFwvytbew8>



SMS TIMES NEWSPAPER IN THE WORKS...



NEWS FROM THE COUNSELING DEPARTMENT



Suicide Prevention Month

In September, our counseling team spread awareness about suicide prevention and reminding students to report concerns about a friend who may be struggling.

We taught students about who trusted adults are in the building – like teachers, counselors, social workers, resource officer, etc. who they can talk to if they are worried or need help. We are also reminded students of the 988 Hotline number that can be used in a crisis situation or when people may need mental health support. If you notice any signs of depression, withdrawal, isolation or other concerns about your child, we encourage you to reach out to your child's school counselor and their doctor for assistance.

See Something, Say Something

We also talked to students this month about the Sandy Hook Promise See Something, Say Something initiative. Students are encouraged to speak up, be an upstander, not a bystander, if they see someone or something they are worried about or that does not feel safe. We are proud of our students who show empathy toward one another and for wanting to promote a positive school climate and culture at SMS.

October is Bullying Prevention month with focuses on Empathy and Unity

- Unity Day is 10/22/25 – We wear orange to let others know we stand against bullies.
- Challenge Days are on 10/27 & 10/28 for the 7th grade.
- We will be planting more yellow tulips for Sources of Strength on 10/24 for the Yellow Tulip Project in the Spring.
- There will be a quick Be the Change celebration on 10/7 in the morning during Spartan Time for all students that were nominated for this award for the month of October.



**JOIN US IN PERSON AND
ON ZOOM FOR**

FAMILIES IN RECOVERY

EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 5 P.M.

Families in Recovery is a peer-led support group for parents and caregivers navigating recovery while involved with Child Protective Services (CPS). Facilitated by individuals who have lived experience with both recovery and the CPS system, this group offers a safe, understanding, and empowering space to connect and heal.

Children under 12 are welcome to attend with their parent(s) or caregiver. Youth ages 12–18 are invited to participate in the ME-RAP Youth Group, which meets at the same time and location.

**ACCESS CENTER
47 WATER STREET
AUGUSTA, ME**

**ZOOM ID: 839 8193 8892
Passcode: Recovery**



SMS In the News...



On Friday, October 3rd, JMG students at Sanford Middle School were presented with a \$2,000 grant to support their SnackDash initiative – a project that helps supply classrooms at SMS with snacks for students. The grant was awarded by the National Nonprofit (E.A.T) Explore. Act. Tell. And funded by Albertsons, a leading national supermarket chain. The grant was presented in person by Larry Crawford, Sanford Shaw's Asst. Store Director, and Dawn Kelley, Sanford Shaw's Assistant Store Director and Community Champion.

Back in May, student Alana Perez (now a freshman at Sanford High) applied for this grant on behalf of the SMS JMG students, even creating and filming her own video submission. She did an outstanding job, and we are so grateful to E.A.T. and Albertsons for choosing to support our program.

Thanks to this grant, teachers will be able to offer students snacks that keep them full and focused during the school day. It's been a huge help for both students and staff, and we couldn't be more thankful.

Congratulations Alana, JMG and SMS!



Pictured (from left to right) : Joe Mastraccio, Aubrey Fifield, Laila Matthews, Navina Allen, Aubrey Joubert, Alana Perez, Larry Crawford, Makenzee Clarrage, Aleira-Faith Thompson, Kaylee Dube, Shawn Houle, Katie Waters, Samantha Trufant, Kaelynn Gokey, Billy Chaplain, Dawn Kelley, Shane Andrews, Trevor Lannigan, Tara Houle.



Sanford Middle School seventh graders experienced hands-on outdoor learning at The Ecology School in Saco last week, participating in an overnight, three-day program that combined hands-on learning with community building in ways that will positively impact students.

The Ecology School has formed partnerships with seven other outdoor education providers across Maine to increase program availability and has made the study of ecology accessible and enjoyable for people since 1998. The school is designed for immersive programs where students learn about conservation, farming, ecology, and sustainability through hands-on, fun activities.

The trip was the result of planning and collaboration spearheaded by SMS science teacher Diana Allen. The planning also involved careful investigation and getting approval from school administration and the school committee.

This vision became reality through Maine's new Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program, recently signed into law by Governor Mills, which aims to increase access to outdoor learning programs. The Ecology School is part of this statewide initiative, and each network partner gets to select a Maine school to receive scholarships for students to attend. The Ecology School's first choice was Sanford Middle School. The only cost to the school department was for transportation to and from the Ecology School.

The setting proved as important as the curriculum itself. The school's location right on the banks of the Saco River, complete with a granite amphitheater and open-air facilities, created a learning environment where natural sunlight and fresh air enhanced each lesson. "This is phenomenal experiential learning," said Sara Nason, a Sanford Middle School teacher who helped chaperone the trip. All classes took place outdoors in natural settings, with students moving between different ecological sites and building knowledge as they explored.

During their stay, students participated in hands-on lessons that brought science standards to life. All lessons aligned with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards, but rather than feeling like traditional classroom work, each activity felt like discovery. In 'Battle of the Biotic,' they explored the roles of producers, consumers and decomposers in forest ecosystems, discovering how organisms compete for survival and examining predator-prey relationships.

The 'Watersheds' lesson had students investigating how water flows and changes landscapes as it travels from mountain to sea, learning about weathering and erosion. Through the 'ABCs of Ecology' lesson, students gained foundational knowledge about abiotic factors like soil and climate, biotic organisms like plants and animals, and the cycles and changes that shape ecosystems.

While students certainly learned about ecology – as 7th grader Kaydence Adjutant shared, "I learned that mushrooms decompose acorns" – some of the most meaningful learning happened through relationships and life skills developed during their time together.

Allen found the community-building aspect particularly meaningful. "The opportunity to spend these days with my students in nature, creating a sense of community, sharing laughter is something I will cherish throughout the school year," Allen said.

When asked about the overnight experience, Adjutant captured the spirit perfectly: "It's really fun. Yeah, it's like one big sleepover with my class." "The comments that we're hearing are, 'Well, this is kind of cool,'" Nason explained. "All sitting down together for a meal." Students also learned important life skills like cleaning up after themselves and taking care of shared spaces.

Allen was moved by watching her students adapt to the environment: "Watching them play, set tables, help each other - it was just incredible to see and be a part of."

These experiences translated into practical learning that students brought home with them. Students returned with practical awareness about waste management, understanding how much food they actually need and how their choices affect the community. The program was such a success that Allen hopes it will become an annual tradition for Sanford seventh graders. "We are incredibly grateful to Drew Demsch and The Ecology School staff for this generous opportunity for our students," Allen added.

The shared experience also gives teachers valuable insights into their students and creates positive reference points for future success and learning. "We now have something very much in common, something tangible and meaningful that we can build from," Nason said.



Austin Decourt enjoying some
sunshine before dinner



Brooks Reed, Emily Breton, Aubrey Hunter,
Amelia Payeur with Ecology School Educator
Wren, getting ready for family style meal time.



Anali Fernandez & Amelia Payeur showing learning can be fun!



Jaxon Jensen, Ethen Goodale, Bradley Hodgkins enjoying afternoon free time with Mrs. McCann.



Parker Stone enjoying some reading.



Emily Polcaro, Ella Norton, Aubrey Hunter & Izzy Laurion heading off to the dorms.



Levi Eastman, taking care of dishes & composting food after dinner.



Victoria Pedro cleaning up after meal time. Ms. Christie & Educator Star, in the background.