



Swartz Creek Community Schools **CROSS SECTION**

*Highlighting events in
Dragon Country!*

AUGUST 2009

WELCOME BACK!

As Superintendent of Swartz Creek Community Schools, I am extremely grateful for having the privilege of serving the students, parents and community of Swartz Creek for the past four years. I am especially looking forward to the upcoming year as I am personally honored to be part of a school district that continues to lead the county and state in several areas of academics and program achievement. I assure you that we plan to continue to be a district that strives to excel for all our students.

We face many challenges this year. As I am sure you have read, the State of Michigan is experiencing unprecedented financial difficulties that has and will affect the running of our school district. For the past year, the School Board has been diligently watching our finances as we prepare to enter what appears to be several years of austerity and frugality. We are also very aware that many hardships have impacted the families that we serve. We will therefore commit ourselves to assisting our community in any way that we can as we all go through these tough times together.

Regardless of these challenges, I want to reaffirm that our Mission, Values and Goals remain the same. We will endeavor to maintain and exceed our high standards by adherence to our guiding principles. I believe that it is important to always keep our mission in the forefront of our thoughts and actions and include it in our discussions, print and decision making strategies. Our mission is printed below:

“Swartz Creek Community Schools is a student-centered district that truly maximizes each learner’s potential so they become a productive participating member of society.”

Our values and parameters continue to enhance our mission through a direct focus

on students and the community. These values include respect for diversity in race, gender, religion, age, culture and ethnic background. The values affirm that all stakeholders are respected and insist we place a high priority on a safe, healthy and orderly environment. The values assert that student achievement can be maximized by individual focus and a commitment to continuous improvement. Finally, we recognize that family values are an integral part of student achievement.

As we begin this new school year, we encourage everyone to join together, as in years past, to form a strong school/family/community partnership so we can meet our goals that state:

- All Swartz Creek students will make adequate yearly progress consistent with federal “No Child Left Behind” standards.
- All Swartz Creek students will be challenged by their Individual Development Plan and will fully participate in their school program.
- All Swartz Creek students will graduate.

Thank you for choosing the Swartz Creek Community School District and entrusting us with your most valued possessions, your children.

CROSS SECTION’S LAST PRINTED ISSUE!

We will no longer be printing and mailing out the CROSS SECTION to district residents. You will be able to view the current issue by visiting our website. Click on DISTRICT INFORMATION and then on the CROSS SECTION link. We will try to have the current issue posted to the web by the end of each month. It will still contain all the information and articles about events happening throughout our school district.

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BACK TO SCHOOL 2009-2010

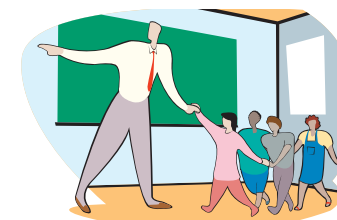
**First day of school:
Tuesday, September 8, 2009**

1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL PM

**HIGH SCHOOL:
11:16 AM - 2:20 PM**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL:
11:26 AM - 2:30 PM**

**ELEMENTARY:
12:30 PM - 3:40 PM**





Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

In compliance with the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, notice is hereby given that the school district intends to release the following student directory information: Name, address, date and place of birth, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, courses of study, awards, honor roll and scholarships received, date of graduation and the name of the most recent previous school attended by the student.

Be it further advised that only a parent/guardian has the right to refuse to permit the release of any or all types of information designated by the school district. If you desire that all or part of the items listed in the directory information should not be released, contact the District by written notification, within two weeks of the receipt of this notice.

All questions, requests for information, or complaints relating to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act in Swartz Creek Community Schools should be directed to:

The Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Business Services

Swartz Creek Community Schools
8354 Cappy Lane
Swartz Creek, MI 48473-1299
(810)591-2392

NOTIFICATION TO PUBLIC REGARDING INSPECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Members of the public have the right to inspect instructional materials, including but not limited to print and non-print materials, teacher's manuals, films, tapes and any other supplementary materials, used as part of the educational curriculum.

If you would like to see any instruction material, please call (810) 591-2385.



Sexual Harassment

It is the policy of the Swartz Creek Community School District to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment. No board member, staff member or student of this district shall be subjected to any form of sexual harassment or intimidation.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any board member, employee, volunteer, or student to harass any member of the board, staff or student body through conduct or communications of a sexual nature as defined in this policy.

Each administrator shall be responsible for promoting understanding and acceptance of, and assuring compliance with, state and federal laws, and board policy and procedures governing sexual harassment within his/her building or office.

Any board member, employee, volunteer, or student who believes that his/her rights have been violated under the state and federal laws, and this policy may report such violation immediately to the Civil Rights Coordinator at the following location:

The Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Business Services

Civil Rights Coordinator
Swartz Creek Community Schools
8354 Cappy Lane
Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473-1299
(810) 591-2392

MEMORANDUM TO PARENTS REGARDING SCHOOL BOARD POLICY ON DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

In accordance with Federal Law, the Board of Education prohibits the use, possession, concealment, or distribution of drugs by students on school grounds, in school or school-approved vehicles, or at any school-related event. Drugs includes any alcoholic beverage, anabolic steroid, dangerous controlled substance as defined by State statute, or substance that could be considered a "look-a-like" controlled substance. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students. Any student who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, in accordance with due process and as specified in the student handbooks, up to and including expulsion from school. When required by State law, the District will also notify law enforcement officials.

The District is concerned about any student who is a victim of alcohol or drug abuse and will facilitate the process by which s/he receives help through programs and services available in the community. Students and their parents should contact the school principal or counseling office whenever such help is needed.

Student Nondiscrimination Policy

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, it is the policy of Swartz Creek Community School District that no person shall be subjected to discrimination during any program or activity or in employment, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, age, height, weight, marital status, or disability.

Any person who believes that he/she has been discriminated against in violation of state and federal law, and this policy may report such violation immediately to the Civil Rights Coordinator at the following locations:

The Office of the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel and Business Services

Swartz Creek Community Schools
8354 Cappy Lane
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A procedural form to facilitate filing a claim of discrimination and to document steps in the Nondiscrimination and Sexual Harassment Grievance Process is available at the above office.

ANNUAL PARENT NOTICE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

The Swartz Creek Community School/Day-Care Center utilizes an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to control pests. IPM is a pest management system that utilizes all suitable techniques in a total pest management system with the intent of preventing pests from reaching unacceptable levels or to reduce an existing population to an acceptable level. Pest management techniques emphasize pest exclusion and biological controls. However, as with most pest control programs, chemical controls may also be utilized.

You have the right to be informed prior to any application of any insecticide, fungicide or herbicide made to the school grounds or buildings during this school year. In certain emergencies, such as an infestation of stinging insects, pesticides may be applied without prior notice to prevent injury to students, but you will be notified following any such application. If you need prior notification, please log on to our website at www.swartzcreek.org/Maintenance/healthyschools.htm and complete the form regarding notification. Please return the form to:

Swartz Creek Community Schools
C/O Director of Operations
8261 Crapo Street
Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473



Parent Involvement Plan

Public Act 107 directs school districts to adopt and implement a parent involvement plan designed to encourage parental participation in the schools. Swartz Creek Community School District has always valued parent involvement and provided opportunities to that end. New opportunities for participation are continually sought to maximize the positive benefits children experience when parents are extensively involved in the schools.

Pre-School (Ages 0 – 5)

- Project SKIP
- Michigan School Readiness Program

* For more details about each opportunity, check out the Parent Involvement Link on our webpage under District Information.



Elementary School

- Individual Potential Plan
- Parent Teacher Associations
- Volunteers
- Newsletters/Publications
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Open Houses
- Student Planners
- Student Handbooks
- Report Cards and Progress Reports
- Parent Presentations on Teaching and Learning
- Parenting Seminars
- Student Performances for Parents
- School Marquis
- District Website

Secondary Level

- Open House
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Student Handbooks
- Report Cards and Progress Reports
- Volunteers
- Newsletters
- Student Performances
- Individual Potential Plans
- Parent Web
- Band Boosters
- Athletic Boosters
- Club Sponsors
- Chaperones
- Event Committees
- Academic Events
- Educational Development Plan

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH INFORMATION

The Michigan Department of Education has announced the household income guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for free and reduced price meals and free milk through the National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Special Milk, and Child and Adult Care Food Programs. The income guidelines are effective from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010. An application to a school or child care center can be approved if it contains complete documentation of household income, or documentation of current participation in Michigan's Family Independence Program, Food Assistance Program, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations. Foster children usually qualify for free meals or free milk without regard to the foster parents' income. Information supplied on an application for free or reduced price meals may be verified at any time. An appeal procedure is available for households where applications are denied. Participating schools and centers accept applications for free or reduced price meals at any time during the year. A household may qualify for free or reduced price meals due to a temporary loss of income, such as a period of unemployment. If a doctor has determined that a child has a disability, and the disability would prevent the child from eating the regular school or child care meal, the school or child care facility will make any substitution prescribed by a doctor at no charge. The doctor's statement, including prescribed diet and/or substitution, must be submitted to the food service department of the school or child care facility. You can find the application on our website at www.swartzcreek.org/menu_main.htm.

Scale for Free Meals or Free Milk

Total Family Size	Annual	Monthly
1	\$14,079	\$1,174
2	\$18,941	\$1,579
3	\$23,803	\$1,984
4	\$28,665	\$2,389
5	\$33,527	\$2,794
6	\$38,389	\$3,200
7	\$43,251	\$3,605
8	\$48,113	\$4,010

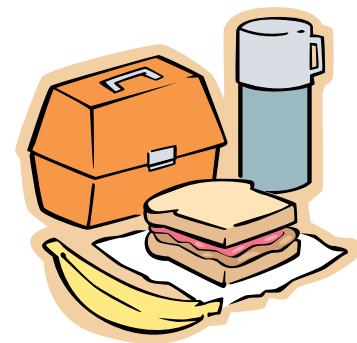
For each additional family member add:

\$4,862 \$406

Scale for Reduced Price Meals

Annual	Monthly
\$20,036	\$1,670
\$26,955	\$2,247
\$33,874	\$2,823
\$40,793	\$3,400
\$47,712	\$3,976
\$54,631	\$4,553
\$61,550	\$5,130
\$68,469	\$5,706

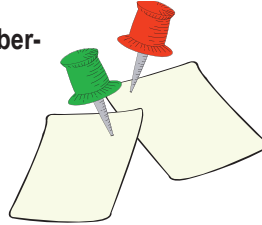
\$6,919 \$577





TAKE NOTE!

Important dates to remember-



Wednesday, December 23, 2009:
Winter Break begins

Monday, January 4, 2010:
School resumes

Friday, April 2, 2010:
No School - Good Friday

**Monday, April 5 thru
Friday, April 9, 2010:**
Spring Break

Monday, April 12, 2010:
School Resumes

Energy Saving Solutions

In these tough economic times, Swartz Creek Community Schools has looked at energy as one of the ways it can help put dollars back into the classroom. As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the school district has teamed up with Consumers Energy's Saving Solutions Incentive Program.

Swartz Creek has applied for over one million dollars in energy incentives with the hopes of getting some of the money back. "Even if the school is only able to get a small portion of the money back, it's the right thing to do and will save the tax payers thousands of dollars in future utility costs," said Mr. Sexton, Director of Operations. The idea of the program was to reward customers for doing energy related projects that have a payback of 8 years or less.

One of the projects submitted for the program included replacing all of the gym lights in the district. "The gyms were dark, inefficient and not very conducive to learning prior to the installation," said Morrish Principal Rod Hetherington. The new lights provided more light at half the cost. Another project included insulating the maintenance building which had no insulation. This idea came from Brandon Matesic, a 2009 graduate of Swartz Creek.

A full list of projects including educationally related items that students and teachers have done can be found at <http://www.swartzcreek.org/Sustainability.htm>

**NEW PHONE NUMBER? NEW ADDRESS?
NAME CHANGE?**

NEW EMERGENCY CONTACT?

Please make sure to notify us so that we have your correct information on file. It is very important! In the event of an emergency, the correct information is crucial in contacting you in a timely manner.

Coming together is a beginning,
staying together is progress,
working together is success.

WWW.SWARTZCREEK.ORG

MY SCHOOL DISTRICT, YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT, AND OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT.

**ERCWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

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Swartz Creek Community Schools
8354 Cappy Lane
Swartz Creek, MI 48473