

Sierra Middle School
6768 Alexandria Pl
Stockton, CA 95209
209.953.8749

THE SPARTAN TIMES
NOVEMBER 2017
Scott Tatum, Principal
Jennifer Heck, Assistant Principal



Hi Spartan Families!

The second quarter is in full swing. We have students completing cell projects, writing expository essays, learning about atomic mass, and living out the Revolutionary War. This month students are participating in our intramural football program and will compete in a district wide dodge ball tournament. During this quarter our academic expectation for students does increase. It is important students are keeping up and producing high quality work that is reflective of 7th and 8th grades.

We are really proud of our student's academic performance during the first quarter.

3.5 - 4.0 GPA	55% of students
3.0 - 3.5 GPA	21% of students
2.5 - 3.0 GPA	11% of students
2.0 - 2.5 GPA	7% of students
Below 2.0 GPA	6% of students

Please make sure your son or daughter is at school. Student's being present at school is one of the top indicators for student success. Our goal is to be above 97% for the school year. We fell below 97% attendance in the month of October to 96.47%. Please make every effort for your child to be at school on time.

The Sierra staff wants one hundred percent of our students to have academic and social success at school. Please encourage your son or daughter to take advantage of one of the many before or after school programs we offer to help them be successful in school.

Please review the below discipline numbers

Sierra discipline is:

Detentions:	Tardy	Dress Code	Behavior
August:	52	2	1
September:	202	11	88
October:	279	10	67

	August	September	October
Saturday Schools:	7	30	52
Focus Center:	0	20	44
Suspensions:	2	13	15

For the month of October, Sierra's attendance rate was: 96.47%

We are having a Great year! Thanks for your help and support!

With Spartan Pride,

Scott Tatum

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

- 8 LUSD Board Meeting, 7:30pm, LE
- 10 Veteran's Day, No School
- 13 Late Dismissal, 2:30pm
- 14 LLL, JRW, 6pm
- 15 LCPTA, JMc, 6pm
- 17 Game Show Rally, 12:35pm, WGym
- 17 Early Dismissal, 1:30pm
- 20-24 Thanksgiving Holidays, No School
- 29 David's Pizza Fundraiser

DECEMBER

- 4 Winter Band Concert, 7pm, LPAC
- 7 Decades Dance 3-5pm, MUR
- 12 LLL, CH, 6pm
- 13 David's Pizza Fundraiser
- 13 LUSD Board Meeting, VOC, 7:30pm
- 15 LLL Posada, 6pm
- 19 Choir Concert, 7pm, LPAC
- 22-Jan 5 Winter Break, No School

MEASURE A BOND

The Measure A Citizen's Bond Oversight Committee's Annual Report is available at our school office. Please feel free to pick up a copy to see how your Measure A bond funds are being spent. Thank you for your support.

Surplus Sale

Beginning Monday, October 30, the district will be having a surplus sale. If you are interested in buying surplus items from the school district, stop by the Education Center, 2010 W. Swain Road and ask for the surplus packet. Bids will be received until noon, Monday November 13.

7th Grade Language Arts

We have finished Unit 1, "In Pursuit - What drives us to undertake a mission?" We will begin Unit 2, "The Powers that Be - What should be the principles of a just society?" November 6. Dystopian literature, movies, and television program have become quite popular with titles such as *Hunger Games*, *Legend*, *Stranger Things*, and *Mad Max*. This unit helps students examine societies and the roles each of us play in those societies. Homework will consist primarily of reading and annotating pieces in the consumable textbook. By having students read the literature at home, we free up class time for the discussions that lead to introspection and have time for thoughtful, detailed writing.

Foods Elective

Students have enjoyed Buffalo Cauliflower Bites, Protein Bars (rice cereal squares with higher nutritional value cereals), and Sweet Potato Fries. Our current project is S'mores dip -- easy, gooey dessert! Future endeavors include pizza bread boats, cookies and cream truffles, cinnamon rolls, alfredo sauce from scratch, and maybe a few more delicacies before the end of the semester in December. Talents or favorite family recipes to share? Email Mrs. Dillon at idillon@lUSD.net

Mrs. Dillon -- 8th Grade Language Arts

We have finished Unit 1, "*Suspense -- Why do we love suspense so?*". We will begin Unit 2, "*Conflict in Communities -- What does our response to conflict say about us?*" November 6. Communities have many contexts. A family, a classroom, a team, a faith, a fan group, a political party, a nation, and many others. How can communities complement one another and learn to work in harmony? Will there always be conflict? Is conflict always negative? This unit helps students look at historical conflicts and the reasons behind those conflicts. Homework will consist primarily of reading and annotating pieces in the consumable textbook. By having students read the literature at home, we free up class time for the discussions that lead to introspection and have time for thoughtful, detailed writing. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Dillon at idillon@lUSD.net.

Christian Club

Students contributed items to fill Shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. These "shoeboxes" are filled with gift items for 10-14 year old boys or 10-14 year old girls. Children this age are often overlooked by gift givers. We included toothbrushes, travel soap holders, pencils, colored pencils, handheld pencil sharpeners, hair ties, sewing kits, purses, tote bags, pocket tool kits, and more. These shoeboxes are shipped overseas and then distributed to children via donkey, elephant, camel, boat, scooter, horse, gnu, human, and any other means necessary. We are currently collecting food items for a Thanksgiving Food Box which will be given to a local family. This club is about inclusion and all students are welcome to be part of this club regardless of personal beliefs. We meet Wednesdays at lunch in room 9. If you have any questions, please email Mrs. Dillon at idillon@lUSD.net.

SIERRA FOOD PANTRY/CLOTHES CLOSET

We are officially open. Students in need of food or uniform clothing should come to The Summit before school, at lunch or after school to get supplies/materials. We would also like to ask for donations for this cause. We have many students/families that are living below the poverty line and we try and assist/accommodate all of them. We need non-perishable food items and clothes sizes small to extra large in blue, grey and tan. If you have any questions or want to coordinate drop-off or pickup feel free to email noregan@lUSD.net or cmclmore@lUSD.net

8th Grade Hoodie & Tee Sale begins November 1st!

Order forms for 8th grade hoodies and t-shirts will be distributed on Nov. 1st during 4th period. Order forms and money can be turned into homerooms or to Mrs. Jara in Room 21. Sale ends November 17th and purchases will be available for pick-up the week before Winter break. This would be a great Christmas present for your 8h grader! Be sure to include the name of student's homeroom teacher. Don't miss out on this great keepsake!

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child is being asked to take a survey at school. The California Department of Education requires schools and districts to ask students about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug issues, as well as questions about school safety and the learning environment. Participation in the survey is voluntary on the part of the student, and we hope you will encourage your child to participate so that his or her opinion and knowledge can be part of the information gleaned from the survey.

The survey is anonymous. No names or any other identifying information is connected to the answers except for the name of the school.

If you have questions, please contact Sierra Middle School @ 209.953.8749.

If you wish to view the survey, you may do so at the school office or on-line <https://sm.lUSD.net/>

Sincerely,

Scott Tatum,
Principal

8th Grade Day
Friday, February 2, 2018

All 8th grade students within the district will visit the Lincoln High School campus from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on February 2, 2018.

The day will begin with a tour of the campus. During an orientation assembly, students will meet our counselors and administrators, and be given the opportunity to learn about the various programs that are available on campus with a tour to follow. Areas that will be highlighted include: choir, drama, Cadet Corps Program, cheer, athletics, auxiliary, band, orchestra, government, Career and Technical Education, peer mediation and LINK Crew.

We welcome students who live in the district and are not currently attending a LUSD school. If a Parent/Guardians would like to sign their child up to attend that day, we ask that you come to the High School Administration office and fill out an emergency card the week prior to the event. Parents need to drop their students off in front of the school, by the flagpole at 9:00 a.m., and pick them up promptly at 12:00 p.m. We will request that students sign in at the Administration office and receive a Visitors pass prior to participating in the day's activities. An Assistant Principal/teacher will supervise the student during their visit to our school.

This will be a fun and informative day for the incoming freshman class.

Any questions, please contact Cathy @ 953-8934.



