



S. S. SEWARD INSTITUTE

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May 7, 2024

Happy May, Spartan Nation!

We finished the third marking period strong and are almost halfway through the final quarter of the school year! Time is speeding up as we close with end-of-the-school-year activities and celebrations. We had a great time at prom and look forward to the many fun events to come. We started the month with “Decision Day ‘24” and celebrated our senior class and the decisions they have made for their future. Our seniors represented their future selves as members of the workforce, armed forces, trade schools, and various universities. It was a fantastic event, and we are grateful to Mr. Pascullo and the senior class officers for organizing it. We are currently celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week. We are so proud of the work our fantastic faculty pours into our student body daily. This week is an excellent opportunity to thank teachers for all they do to prepare our students to reach their full potential. To read more about Seward events, check out our website and the [“News & Announcements.”](#)



Keep reading below for important announcements about the end of the school year, including middle school field trips, Regents exams, and the end-of-the-year schedule for middle and high school students!



*****Important JUNE Information Below*****



Upcoming Events

Event:	Date	Time:	Location:
4th Marking Period Midpoint	5/10/24	All Day	SSSI
PTSA Budget Presentation	5/14/24	7:00 p.m.	SSSI Cafe
William Henry Seward's Birthday	5/16/24	All Day	FUFSD
June SAT Registration Deadline	5/17/24	All Day	SSSI
Budget Vote	5/21/24	All Day	Memorial Bldg.
District Showcase	5/21/24	6-8:00 p.m.	SSSI
District Closed (Memorial Day)	5/23-5/27	All Day	FUFSD
Board of Education Meeting	5/23/24	7:00 p.m.	SSSI Cafe

JUNE INFORMATION

There are some important changes to the upcoming June schedule for students. First, on **June 4th**, we will administer the **Algebra I Regents Exam**. The only students reporting to the building that day will be those taking the exam and 6th-grade students attending a field trip at Legoland. **Our 6th-grade students will be in regular school attendance every day we administer Regents Exams.** The 6th graders are technically still elementary students and must regularly attend school until June 25th (6/25 will be a half day for Golden Hill and 6th-grade students). For the days that Regents exams are administered at the end of the school year, 6th-grade students will follow a special schedule during the regular school day involving many engaging and enrichment-based activities. Breakfast and lunch will be served every day. The 6th-grade teachers have planned a range of activities, and more information about them will be provided in the near future.

*****Please see the June calendar below*****



June Events

Event:	Date:	Time:	Location:
SAT Exam	6/1/24	7:00 a.m.	Middletown/MW
Algebra I Regents Exam	6/4/24	7:30 a.m.	SSSI
Gr. 6 Field Trip	6/4/24	7:30 a.m.-2:20 p.m.	SSSI
SSSI Orientation (Incoming 6th & 9th Grade Students & Families)	6/4/24	6:00 p.m. (Middle) 7:00 p.m. (High School)	SSSI Cafe
Spring Concert & Art Show	6/5/24	6:00 p.m. (Band) 7:00 p.m. (Chorus)	SSSI Cafe
Gr. 8 Field Trip (Hayden Planetarium)	6/10/24	7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	SSSI
Spring Sports Reception	6/10/24	7:00 p.m.	SSSI Cafe
Gr. 7 Field Trip (Liberty Science Ctr.)	6/11/24	7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	SSSI
PTSA Elections Meeting	6/11/24	6:00 p.m.	SSSI Cafe
Varsity Athletic Awards	6/11/24	7:00 p.m.	SSSI Cafe
Academic Awards Night (Grades 6,7,9,10, & 11)	6/12/24	6:00 p.m.	SSSI Cafe
Last Day Regular Classes (Grades 7-12)	6/13/24	All Day	SSSI
Regents Exams (Full Schedule Here) <i>*6th Grade Attends School 7:30-2:20</i>	6/14/24- 6/25/24	All Day	SSSI
8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony	6/17/24	9:00 a.m.	SSSI Cafe
8th Grade Party	6/17/24	6:00 p.m.	SSSI Cafe
Senior Recognition Night	6/18/24	6:00 p.m.	SSSI Cafe
Juneteenth-School Closed	6/19/24	All Day	FUFSD
CTE Recognition Ceremony	6/20/24	6:00 p.m.	Middletown HS
Half Day 6th Grade Students	6/25/24	10:30 Dismissal	SSSI
Last Day for All Students	6/25/24	All Day	FUFSD
Baccalaureate	6/27/24	7:00 p.m.	Fl. Pres. Church
Graduation	6/29/24	10:00 a.m.	SSSI



One Thing: Attendance

We have continued to monitor our attendance data. We are committed to attaining the year-end goals for both the reduction of chronically absent students and the increase in overall daily attendance. There is a lot of work to be done as we fell short of our goals for the third marking period while making progress in chronic absenteeism from the second marking period. We need your help! We have found that family engagement is critical for students to maintain good attendance patterns. Keep track of your child(ren)'s absences. Keep an eye on SchoolTool, which will give you all the information you need regarding your child(ren)'s attendance. Monitor how many absences they have and aim to keep them under nine days for the school year. Having less than 9 absences equates to an overall attendance percentage of at least 95% for the year. Ensuring that our students are absent less than 18 days prevents them from being categorized as chronically absent. Being present in school provides them with the best possible opportunity to be successful in school. Thank you for doing your part in supporting the success of all of our Spartan students!

Marking Period End Date:	Target:	Actual Percentages:
November 16, 2023	Less than 18% Chronically Absent/93% Attendance Rate	CA=14.1%/ Att. Rate=95.44%
February 1, 2024	Less than 16% Chronically Absent/94% Attendance Rate	CA=17.97%/Att. Rate=94.35%
April 18, 2024	Less than 14% Chronically Absent/95% Attendance Rate	CA=15.28%/Att. Rate=94.14%
June 26, 2024	Less than 13% Chronically Absent/96% Attendance Rate	

Thank you,



Michael Maesano

Staying after school for an activity? Need a ride home? We've got you!

Seward offers late bus transportation home every day at 3:10 p.m. so don't hesitate to stay after!

Join a club or get some extra help. We want you to be involved!





Keep Your Child On Track in Middle and High School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students access learning opportunities and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job. Families can also advocate for resources to help students learn if they cannot attend in-person.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your teen maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-Covid-19 related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your student healthy, and if you are concerned about Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your teens must stay home because they are sick or in quarantine, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom.

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your teen to join meaningful after-school activities, including sports and clubs.
- Notice and support your students if they are showing signs of anxiety.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your teen's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents or community agencies if you need support.

Updated November 2022



ENGAGEMinds
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