Dear Smith Families,

Welcome to Smith Middle School! First, I would like to take a moment to introduce our new staff, pictured at right. Ms. Phillips is new to our band/instrumental program, but she brings a ton of experience. She is excellent at building rapport with our scholars, and we can’t wait to see what ideas she brings to us! Look for her leading our middle-level band at the Solanco Fair Parade later this month! Mrs. Groff is coming to us from within the district. She has previously taught high school English and served at Clermont Elementary in other roles. She has a lot of excellent skills and an incredible heart for our scholars. She will be teaching 7th-grade LEAD as a long-term substitute while filling in for Mrs. Currie. Miss Wright will be starting with us this month as Mrs. Dienner takes leave. Miss Wright recently graduated from Juniata College and will be serving as a long-term substitute for 8th-grade LEAD. She has terrific ideas and is excited to be part of the Smith team! Mrs. Mankin (geography) and Mrs. Riehl (special ed), while not new to Solanco, are also bringing great enthusiasm and experience to Smith! Mr. Nobile (speech) and Mrs. Frackman (ESL) join us for part of their time at Smith.

Since we have over 430 scholars again this year, we are going to continue to find new ways to connect them to our building throughout the year. Our teaming philosophy enables our staff to own every scholar and ensure we’re supporting and challenging them. We have excellent teachers who are committed to fostering academic and overall success in our learners.

Middle school scholars spend most of their day with their academic core team. Core instruction consists of social studies, science, math, reading, LEAD, and language arts. Additional support is available for math and reading. Tutoring is available after school for those scholars in need of extra support, and there will be some opportunities for our scholars to earn incentives through this as well. Team planning time allows teachers to work together to create lessons that show scholars’ connections between subject matter and techniques to transfer those connections to real-life situations. Teaming not only provides a supportive transition from elementary school but is also effective in preparing scholars for their continued education in high school.

In addition to the core subjects, our scholars participate in a Unified Arts curriculum that includes physical education, health/wellness, technology education, computer education, art, music, STEM, and family and consumer science. New this year for the 8th-grade team is our Innovations course. During this course, learners will have a half year, split with Geography, where they will use online platforms to learn more about computer programming. (Continued on page 2)
Principals’ Message (continued from page 1)

Our learners are encouraged to participate in co-curricular activities, including music and athletics. Smith Middle School also promotes character education by encouraging scholars and adults to be good citizens and to exhibit a positive attitude in everything they do. We desire that everyone's actions, words that are spoken, and how we present ourselves truly honor the dignity of all. Working hand in hand with this idea, the PRIDE 2.0 program initiative, which is a formidable and noticeable focus in our building, working to end bullying through awareness and advocacy. We want to be the best in the state at addressing the social and emotional needs of learners. Please help us by joining the cause! The linked article (below) from The Wall Street Journal shares some good insight about positive ways to handle situations where bullying may be involved. We encourage you to reach out to us if you ever have any concerns! There is also a private form you can submit on our school web page.

As educators, our goal is to equip your children with the tools they need to succeed: caring teachers, challenging educational experiences, and a love of learning. However, it will take the combined efforts of both the school and home to succeed in educating a child. Just as we challenge your children daily to work hard and to try their best, I challenge you to remain involved with your child's middle school education. We encourage all members of the community to join us for scheduled activities and become involved in our PTO. Our middle school PTO often meets to plan and provide activities and resources to benefit our students.

The faculty and staff members of Smith Middle School are an exemplary group of enthusiastic professionals who have dedicated themselves to provide outstanding educational programs and opportunities to meet the needs of the ever-changing scholar population. They have committed to dedicating their time and expertise to give every Smith scholar with the skills needed to face the challenges of the new global environment, and I am proud to be part of that commitment.

We had a great year last year, but this year will be better! Some new things are coming, but what we're proud of is how the staff is making our existing programs even stronger. Thank you for your support.

http://www.wsj.com/articles/when-a-bully-targets-your-child-1473789440

Mr. Paul Gladfelter, Principal  Mr. David Beard, Asst. Principal
PTO Update:
We are excited to begin another school year with all of you! Please if you have not filled out a PTO contact sheet send us your information. We are looking for your student’s name & grade, your name, and an email address. This is simply so that we can let you know about the upcoming events at the school. You can send this information to smithpto@solancosd.org. There will be a reward incentive for any students who have this information turned in. Looking ahead we have Fall Fest coming up on 11/2 and the mother-daughter paint night held by painting with a twist on 11/16. We are looking for volunteers and donations for Fall Fest, if you are interested please contact the PTO at smithpto@solancosd.org or Alexandria DeCicco. Mother-daughter paint night forms will be available next week and seat are very limited. Our next PTO meeting is on 10/1 at 4:30 pm, we hope to see you all there.

Counselor’s Corner
As we begin the new school year, let’s take a look at healthy habits that create strong students!

1. **Sleep** - did you know according to the CDC, middle school scholars need around 9 hours of sleep each night? Scholars who do not get enough sleep have a higher risk for many health and behavior problems.

2. **Exercise** - The Department of Health and Human Services, suggest that scholars ages 6 to 17 have 60 minutes or more of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity each day (that’s 1 whole hour). Physical activity also has brain health benefits like improved memory and focus, reduced symptoms of depression and preventing risk factors for health conditions like heart disease, obesity, and type 2 diabetes.

3. **Nutrition** - eating a balanced diet and drinking a lot of water has been associated with improved memory, better attendance, and improved mood.

These are just a few healthy habits that can create strong, motivated learners!

Let’s have an awesome year!

Please feel free to contact me at any time. I can be reached by email: Caitlin_desimone@solancosd.org, or by phone: (717) 786-2244.

**Language Arts** - In Language Arts scholars will be finishing up their work with our Summer Reading novel, Peak, and starting a fun new unit with the non-fiction book, Mistakes That Worked. Students will find that they love this book!

**LEAD** - In Lead 6th graders will be organizing themselves and setting goals! They will be working on non-fiction text as they use the Newsela program on a weekly basis.

**Math** - In math, we will be exploring various operations and strategies to solve real-world problems, including work with fractions, decimals, and integers!

**Science** - This month in science students will compare and contrast the metric system while also exploring the scientific method.

**Social Studies** – Our focus will be fine tuning map skills and learning about various types of maps. After a few short weeks, we will begin exploring the ancient civilization of Mesopotamia.
7th Grade Team News

**Math/Math Extensions:** Students will work on integer operations, integer relationships and problem solving with integers.

**LEAD:** Students will be goal setting, improving organizational skills, and reviewing reading strategies.

**Social Studies:** Learners will be discovering how the U.S. Government’s structure and policies work. This Civics unit will help the students become better, more informed, and more involved citizens.

**LA:** Students will compose their first text-dependent analysis through the study of their summer reading novel, *Wonder.*

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8th Grade Team News

**Language Arts:** Students in English Language Arts are working on their *Fever 1793* literary analysis essays and beginning their second unit of study on *An American Plague* by Jim Murphy.

**LEAD III:** Students are setting goals and beginning career research in September.

**Algebra:** In September, Algebra students will finish an introduction to Algebra unit and then begin solving equations in Algebra. Introduction to Algebra students will also finish an introduction to Algebra and then begin solving using the basic functions in Algebra. All students also have received their first “BOOSTS” of the year and know they can turn them at any point during the year!

**Integrated Geography:** In Geography, we are learning all about our Solanco school district, past and present. We are finding what Solanco has to offer in terms of jobs, resources and recreation.

**Science:** In September in 8th Grade Science the students are studying the concept of Matter. We will study the properties of matter, analyze the periodic table, and begin to study chemical bonds.

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**Social Studies:** In September the students are studying the Foundations of American Government. The students are conducting a Presidential Election using the system that is used to elect the President. The focus of the lessons on the Executive Branch focuses on the Office of the President.
MUSIC - Students in grade 6 music will be learning about the elements of music and the American composer George Gershwin. Students in grade 7 music will be learning about the instruments of the orchestra. Music students in grade 8 will be studying the roots of Rock and Roll.

BAND - The Marching Band is getting ready to participate in the Solanco Fair Parade and Band Night in the Barnyard with the High School Marching Band!

HEALTH - Welcome to 7th Grade Health! Students in 7th Grade will begin Health by discussing overall Wellness and learning about Decision Making and how that impacts their health and well being. From there, students will begin a Fitness Unit exploring the benefits of exercise and the five components of fitness.

FITNESS - Welcome back! Boys in all grades will begin Fitness with a Flag Football unit while the girls will start with Field Hockey. Please ensure that your child has a Solanco Fitness Uniform for Fitness class this year. Students may use their old uniforms if they choose but if your child needs a new one order forms are available for them.

COMPUTER TECH - All students will begin the year focusing on cyber safety. The 6th graders will be working on personal vs. private information and creating strong passwords. The 7th graders will be focusing on preventing and reporting cyberbullying. The 8th graders will be introduced to cyber ethics and cyber hygiene.

ART - To start the new semester, scholars will be reviewing classroom expectations and creating personal folders during the first week. Then, 6th grade scholars will be exploring contour line and pattern. 7th grade scholars will learn about shading and proportion by creating gridded portraits. 8th grade scholars will be introduced to elements of design.

FACS - 6th graders will discuss family, communication, leadership, and problem solving while learning basic hand and machine sewing techniques and creating a quilt. 7th graders will learn about kitchen tools, safety, measuring, and make puppy chow. 8th graders will learn about the 6 nutrients and make nutritious smoothies.

STEM - See you in November!

TECH ED - 6th Grade will learn about transportation by building and flying model rockets. 7th Grade will begin their Manufacturing Unit, producing a woodworking project. 8th Grade will learn about the building blocks of electronics.

MEDIA CENTER - 6th grade will begin the year with an orientation to the library and procedures followed by book exchanges for leisure reading. 7th and 8th grade will briefly review literary genres and complete book exchanges. All students are allowed to check-out two books, unless they have an overdue book. Students are strongly encouraged to always have a book for leisure reading and a backup book, in case they would finish the first book or need a change.

Upcoming Dates:

September 4th - PTO meeting-4:30 at Smith
September 5th - Back-to-School Night 6PM-8PM
September 18th, 19th, and 20th Solanco Fair
September 27th - Picture Day

Front: Mrs. Almoney, Mr. Silimperi, Mrs. Gagliardi, Miss Phillips
Back: Mrs. Plaisted, Mrs. Falduts, Mr. McCardell, Mr. Jansen, Miss Sellers, Ms. Wasilius
Not pictured: Mrs. Linde, Mr. Childs