



SENECA GRADE SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER

Eric Misener – Superintendent
Lynn McGhee – North Campus Principal
Shane Severson – South Campus Principal

**1st Trimester
2020-2021**

The 2020 School Year has been challenging from the first school day in August, however with the cooperation of students, parents and SGS Staff members, we have made it through the 1st trimester. Overall, we have all made adjustments to our “normal” day-to-day activities and make the best out of a less than perfect situation. As we approach this Thanksgiving Holiday, it is easy to reflect on the many things that I am thankful for during this unique 2020 school year.

I am thankful:

- that our students can attend school and learn through in-person and remote settings.
- for hardworking students who have done a great job following all of the new guidelines and restrictions in order to safely attend school.
- for supportive and hardworking parents and community members.
- for dedicated and creative teachers and staff who strive to provide the SGS students with a safe and nurturing learning environment.
- for a supportive and proactive school board and administrative team.
- for good health, good friends and a supportive family.

Over the last two years we have been working with Sunvest Solar to develop a strategy to provide electricity for the District. This summer we were able to start construction, in cooperation and partnership with Lamb Sunny Farm LLC, on a 3 acre site behind South Campus. This 600-kilowatt ground mounted solar array went on-line September 23rd. It is estimated to generate about 750,000 Kilowatts of electricity per year, enough to provide 100% of the electrical needs for South Campus. Attached, please find pictures of the array. Thank you to Sunvest Solar, The Lamb Family and Whitt Law for helping make this project possible.

Once again, I would like to thank you for making the first third of the 2020-2021 school year successful. We will continue to consult with the LaSalle County Health Department and as long as our numbers reflect positive school health, we will continue to provide in-person learning. Please check out the SGS webpage www.sgs170.org under Live Feed for our weekly COVID Numbers and Communications.

It's great to be part of Raider Nation!!



Eric Misener

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Keep up with the various happenings at the school on our school website and app. All classrooms are connected to ClassDojo – so be sure to check it often. Teachers are frequently sharing all the great things students are doing in their classrooms. They also post important reminders about upcoming events.

As I have reflected back on this past trimester, I have a wide range of feelings and reactions. There are many things that I miss from the traditional start of the school year - with the largest being having all our students in person with us. And while I am sad we are not all "together" under the same building roof, I am so unbelievably proud of how we have come together as our Raider Nation regardless of where a student receives his/her instruction. I can't express my gratitude enough to the amazing staff who have worked so hard to meet every challenge 2020 has thrown at them. Our families have put their trust in us to provide a safe environment for all students and we appreciate your trust and support. All our support staff have been outstanding providing additional help to meet our building and student needs. Of course I am most proud of the students and their resilience and positivity throughout this situation. Students are ready to learn whether that is in-person or remotely and are working so hard to do their best. When I doubt a decision or become frustrated with another roadblock or issue, I just go spend time with the students and things become remarkably clear - we are lucky to have this amazing community of learners and we will come through this

STEM

We are so excited to welcome Mrs. Elaine Virgo to our staff as our new STEM teacher. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Mrs. Virgo visits every classroom each week to share an activity aligned to the recently adopted state science standards. She has been a wonderful technology resource for both staff and students. But the real fun and learning are in the weekly STEM projects. During this time, it offers all students interactive science instruction that promotes analysis and interpretation of data, critical thinking, problem solving and connections across science disciplines. The students have had the opportunity to design and build a variety of projects in all grade levels. This has been a welcomed addition to our curriculum! Be sure to ask your child about STEM class.



As we enter the winter season, I would like to remind families that we will go outside for recess when the temperature is 15 or above. Please check the weather each day and make sure your child has all necessary items to stay warm. We have many generous supporters of the school, so please contact us if you need any help with coats, hats, mittens, etc. We want everyone to be warm this winter!



Mr. Severson's Report

The start of the 2020-21 school year has been a very unique experience filled with uncertainty and unprecedented circumstances. That being said, I am very excited that we have been able to offer an in-person option for our students throughout the 1st Trimester and are continuing to offer that option as we start our 2nd Trimester. Our ability to continue to extend educational options is a credit to our staff, our students and to all of you. On behalf of everyone here at the South Campus, I would like to sincerely thank all of our parents, guardians and community members for your continued patience, understanding and cooperation. Our staff continues to work hard providing instruction to our in-person and remote learners under circumstances that often prove challenging, and our students continue to achieve academically while overcoming many obstacles they have never experienced. I feel very fortunate to be part of our school community and look forward to working with all of you as we continue to find new ways to overcome challenges and provide our students with the best opportunities to succeed.



Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences will take place Monday, November 23rd and Tuesday, November 24th. Conferences provide a great opportunity to meet with your student's teachers, whether in-person or remotely, to discuss current performance levels as well as expectations moving forward. The following is the scheduled times for conferences:

Monday, November 23rd

1:00 – 4:00 pm

5:00 – 8:00 pm

(4:00 – 5:00 pm will serve as a dinner break for the teachers)

Tuesday, November 24th

8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Please contact the South Campus Main Office with any questions or concerns about parent/teacher conferences at (815) 357-8744 ext. 3100



The 2020 cross country season began at the beginning of August. The team was fortunate enough to have a season with 8 regular meets and a sectional. The Sectional was hosted at Seneca Middle School Campus for the first time. On Friday, October 16th, Evelyn O'Connor placed first and was crowned the sectional champion with a time of 12:30. Nate Sprinkel earned a 5th place medal with a personal best time of 13:29. Connor Pabian and Aiden Burton also competed at sectionals and ran very well. The cross country team consisted of all 8th grade runners this season. Congratulations to our runners on your hard work and dedication.



Baseball

The 2020 Raider baseball season has come to an end and the program has a lot to be proud of. Although the A team didn't finish with the record they had hoped for, the team still showed a lot of improvement as the season progressed, and has shown a lot of potential moving forward to the high school level. The B team finished with a record of 4-2 on the shortened season. The team was led by a group of six experienced 7th graders, as well as four 6th graders.

Even though it was a shortened, conference only season, we were all very happy to get an opportunity to get out and have a season! The boys worked hard and improved throughout the short season. We would like to wish all of the 8th graders good luck in high school, and can't wait for young players to step up and grow for next season.



SOFTBALL

The Lady Raiders A team had a very successful season. Their hard work during practices earned them a 6-3 record. They found themselves with commanding leads during many of their games thanks to solid pitching and defense, as well as some clutch hitting. The girls played their best game of the season during Regionals losing by 1 run in the bottom of the 7th inning. Good luck to this year's 8th graders who will be moving on to the next level!

The Lady Raiders B team ended the season with an impressive 5-0 record. Layken Callahan dominated on the mound with strong support from the defense. Offensively the bats were solid and the girls worked their way around the bases with smart base running. They worked hard throughout the season and gained confidence while up to bat and out in the field as well. It was nice to see the many improvements throughout the season, and I look forward to working with the girls next year.

Student News

FOOSBALL



**STUDENT
OF THE
MONTH**

SEPTEMBER

Payton

McDonald

OCTOBER

Clara

Bruno

From the Nurse's Office:



The following is a list of Covid guidelines from the Illinois Department of Public Health:

If **ONE** person in your household has any of the following symptoms, please keep all of your children home and contact their pediatrician:

- Temperature, 100.0 or higher, chills or body aches
- Headache, sore throat, nasal congestion/runny nose
- Develops a cough &/or shortness of breath
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Fatigue, muscle, body aches &/or abdominal pain (from an unknown reason)
- Loss of smell &/or taste

Please do not hesitate to call the nurses office with any questions, 357-8744 ext. 2110 for north campus nurse or ext. 3110 for the south campus nurse.

Thank you,

Mrs. Widman, Mrs. Berg and Mrs. Larson

**RAIDER READER
PLAQUE DESIGN WINNER**

LIAM BAIMA



Mark Your Calendar



NOVEMBER

- NOV 23 EARLY DISMISSAL 11:25/11:35
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE
1PM-8PM
- NOV 24 NO SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE
8AM-12PM
- NOV 25 – 27 NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING BREAK

DECEMBER

- DEC 18 CHRISTMAS BREAK
EARLY DISMISSAL 1:45 NC/1:50 SC
- DEC 21 - JAN 1 NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK

JANUARY

- JAN 4 SCHOOL RESUMES
- JAN 18 NO SCHOOL – M.L. KING’S BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY

- FEB 12 EARLY DISMISSAL 11:25/11:35
- FEB 15 NO SCHOOL PRESIDENT’S DAY
- FEB 26 END OF 2ND TRIMESTER



Seneca Community Consolidated School District #170 Inclement Weather Notification

In the event of severely inclement weather or mechanical breakdown, school may be closed. The same conditions may also necessitate any early dismissal. School closings or early dismissal will be announced on the school web page live feed, school Face Book page, school text, email and phone notification system as well as over WCSJ-AM (1550) and WJDK (95.7) in Morris and WCMY-AM (1430) and WRKX-FM (95.3) in Ottawa, and major Chicago radio stations. Reports will be made between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. When possible, we will attempt to make the determination to cancel school as early as possible.