

SOUTHWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

"SOARING TO SUCCESS"



Jeff Overkleeft, Principal
455-7230

October 2, 2026
www.kentwoodps.org/southwood/

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

I wanted to thank all that attended Southwood's Family Reading Night, Operation: Library. It was a great success. It means a lot to all of us here at Southwood to bring our families together at such a fun event. I hope you received your books, had a good meal and enjoyed the activities. I would also like to thank my staff and the KDL Gaines Library for helping with such a successful night.

Student Conferences are coming up next week on Wednesday, October 7 and Thursday, October 8. We encourage you to sign up using the following link:

<https://www.schoolbookings.net/code/38mhs>

Please take this opportunity to connect with your child's teacher. Conferences are a wonderful time to celebrate your students' growth and talk about ways we can continue supporting their success together.

Jeff Overkleeft
Principal

Looking Ahead



October

Wednesday, Oct. 7
Wednesday, Oct. 7

Thursday, Oct. 8

Friday, Oct. 9
Wednesday, Oct. 21
Friday, Oct. 30

Count Day
Parent Teacher Conferences
4:30 – 8:30 PM
½ Day 12:15 PM Dismissal
Parent Teacher/
Virtual Conferences
No School
PTC Meeting @ 4:15 pm
Fall Harvest Parties

November

Monday, Nov 2
Wednesday, Nov. 18
Wednesday, Nov. 25
Thursday, Nov. 26
Friday, Nov. 27

No School
PTC Meeting @ 4:15 PM
Thanksgiving Break-No School
Thanksgiving Break-No School
Thanksgiving Break-No School

December

Wednesday, Dec. 16
Thursday, Dec. 17

Friday, Dec. 18
Monday, Dec. 21

PTC Meeting @ 4:15 PM
Holiday Parties/ Time TBD
½ day 12:15 PM Dismissal
½ Day 12:15 PM Dismissal
Holiday Break Begins

PLEASE JOIN US FOR SOUTHWOOD ELEMENTARY'S



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
4:15PM COLLABORATION CENTER

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

CHILDCARE PROVIDED DURING MEETING

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS, FALL FEST, HOLIDAY SHOP,
TEACHER NEEDS

**PARENTS, TEACHERS, GRANDPARENTS, STAFF AND
OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!**

QUESTIONS AND DONATIONS PLEASE EMAIL PTCSOUTHWOOD@GMAIL.COM



We are a Hand2Hand School!

Sign up to receive one free meal bag a week!

.Iyandikishe kugira ngo ubone agafuka kamwe k'ubuntu mu cyumweru

हप्तामा एउटा निःशुल्क खानाको झोला प्राप्त गर्न साइन अप गर्नुहोस्।

.Regístrate para recibir una bolsa de comida gratis a la semana

တစ်ပတ်လျှင် ထမင်းထုပ်တစ်ထုပ် အခမဲ့ရရှိရန် စာရင်းသွင်းလိုက်ပါ။

.Đăng ký để nhận một túi đồ ăn miễn phí mỗi tuần

سجل للحصول على وجبة مجانية واحدة أسبوعياً.

.Jisajili ili upate mfuko mmoja wa chakula bila malipo kwa wiki

SCAN TO SIGN UP:



*What's In a
Weekend Backpack?*



Bags are discreetly dropped off in students lockers.

Reach out to Hand2Hand at permissionslp@h2hkids.org

Southwood PTC
presents
**POPCORN
FRIDAYS**
every other Friday starting
October 2.

Bags of
Popcorn
50¢
each

Yearly
Popcorn
PASS
for **\$5**

All money will be due
the Thursday prior to
popcorn Friday.

no cash will be accepted on Friday



Our Lost and Found is growing! We encourage families to remind students to check the Lost and Found for any missing coats, sweatshirts, water bottles, lunch boxes, or other belongings.

Please take a moment to stop by and see if any of the items belong to your family. **Labeling jackets, coats, water bottles, and other personal items with your child's name** can also help us return lost belongings to their owners.

Thank you for helping us keep our Lost and Found under control and making sure students get their belongings back!



Family Connection

SEL & Wellness Monthly



This month, we're focusing on **RESPONSIBILITY**. As we settle into the school year, October is a great time to focus on responsibility! Responsibility means making good choices, following through on what we say we will do, and taking care of ourselves, others, and our school community.

Falling Into Responsibility

RESPONSIBILITY is the SEL trait of the month, a skill that grows with practice. Children become more responsible when adults give them chances to make choices, contribute to the family, solve problems, and experience the natural results of their decisions. Here are some conversation starters to talk about responsibility with your child:

- What does being responsible mean to you?
- What is one responsibility you have at home?
- What's a responsibility you have that felt hard at first but got easier over time?
- How do you feel when someone can count on you?
- What is one responsibility you have at school?
- What happens when you don't follow through on something you said you'd do?

Mental Health & Wellness Tips

I can be responsible for my mental health and wellness by:

- **Getting enough sleep.** A regular bedtime routine helps our bodies and brains recharge.
- **Talking about my feelings.** I don't have to handle difficult feelings alone. Talking with a trusted adult is a responsible choice.
- **Making healthy screen choices.** Creating time away from screens can give our brains a chance to rest and connect with others.
- **Taking a break when I need one.** Sometimes our brains need a reset. Taking a few quiet minutes, stretching, breathing, or getting some movement can help.
- **Asking for Help.** Being responsible does not mean doing everything by yourself. Knowing when and how to ask for help is an important life skill.
- **Taking care of my body.** Eating nourishing foods, drinking water, and moving our bodies can support our overall well-being.

Building Responsibility at Home

Being responsible can look different at home. Here are some ways to show responsibility at home:

- Helping with household responsibilities
- Taking care of personal belongings
- Completing routines without constant reminders
- Taking care of pets or younger siblings
- Keeping promises and commitments
- Being honest when something goes wrong



Family Challenge

Give each family member an ongoing responsibility that contributes to the household, whether it's setting the table, feeding a pet, or managing a small chore. At the end of the week, talk together about how each person's contribution made things run more smoothly.

Scan the QR code to check out community resources



DISTRICT BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH COORDINATORS
KAMARIA DAWKINS AND KAYLA SMITH