**8TH GRADE ACTIVITIES PLAN 2023-2024**

**November 1, 2023**

**Dear Parent/Guardian of a SSMS 8th Grade Student:**

SSMS is excited to announce our 8th grade celebrations for the class of 2028! Please know these plans are subject to change based on Pasco County School Board safety guidelines. As a part of our school’s commitment to prepare our students for the adventures and rigor that high school brings, we find it necessary to implement eligibility requirements for participation in all 8th grade activities. Although these events are an important part of being an 8th grader at SSMS, they are a privilege that is earned. Below you will find the eligibility requirements for students to attend any 8th grade activities. We are notifying you of the requirements, so you can assist your child in meeting the expectations of these 8th grade activities. The 8th grade students have also been notified of these requirements and understand what they must do to earn the privilege of attending these events.

***Students who only want an 8th grade T-shirt and choose not to participate in the 8th grade activities may purchase the 8th grade T-shirt for $15 from 3/21-4/24 through Rycor or their team.***

Beginning on January 9, 2024 students must meet **ALL** of the following criteria in order to be eligible to participate in the 8th grade activities (Gradventure, the Semi-Formal Dance, Field Day, and the Promotion Ceremony):

1. **Academic Eligibility Requirements**
2. Students must pass and/or be passing **ALL** core subjects (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies) for each of the 3 years in Middle School.
3. Students with failures in 6th and/or 7th and/or 8th grade core classes must first recover those failed classes before they would be eligible for promotion; therefore, these students are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for 8th grade Gradventure, the Semi-Formal Dance, Field Day, and the Promotion Ceremony until the courses are recovered (We encourage students to participate in our course recovery and extended school day programs. Once students have passed or recovered all core classes in grades 6-8, they must continue working to maintain a passing grade for the remainder of the school year in all their core classes and assignments to maintain eligibility to attend the 8th grade activities).
4. **Behavioral Eligibility Requirements**

The Pasco County Student Code of Conduct is in effect at all school-related events. Any student choosing to violate the Pasco County Student Code of Conduct, either by association or by committing the act personally, will receive any or all of the interventions prescribed by the District School Board of Pasco County.

1. Any student who receives Out-of-School-Suspension (O.S.S.) beginning **January 9th** is **Not Eligible** for the 8th grade activities (Gradventure, 8th Grade Semi-Formal Dance, and Field Day).
2. Any child who receives a discipline referral that results in In-School-Suspension (I.S.S.) beginning **January 9th,** he/she will **NOT** be allowed to participate in 8th grade activities as follows:

1st Referral with I.S.S. = Loss of **First** 8th grade activity (Gradventure)

2nd Referral with I.S.S. = Loss of **Additional** 8th grade activity (8th Grade Semi-Formal Dance)

3rd Referral with I.S.S. = Loss of **ALL** 8th grade activity (Field Day)

With our behavioral expectations in place, we anticipate that students, even those that have a history of disciplinary referrals, will try to avoid referable infractions, so that they can participate in the 8th grade activities.

**Please Note:**

* The 8th grade activities require the school to purchase items in advance. As a result, any student who receives a referral with a suspension participation in the 8th grade activities and **may not receive a refund**.
* Students who are ineligible for the 8th grade activities due to disciplinary reasons can still participate in the promotion ceremony as long as they meet the academic promotion requirements.
* Students, who currently do not meet the academic eligibility requirements, **can become eligible** by:
1. Raising their grade in all 8th grade core classes to a passing level
2. Completing Course Recovery for failed course in 6th and/or 7th grades

If you have any questions regarding academic eligibility requirements, please feel free to contact Ms. Murphy, Ms. Andrews, or Ms. Batista. If you have any questions regarding behavior requirements, please feel free to contact Mrs. Seibert, 8th Grade Assistant Principal.

**Eighth Grade End of the Year Activities 2023-2024**

**Eighth Grade Fieldtrip**

Location: Universal Studios & Universal Islands of Adventure

When: Friday, May 10th, 2024

Cost: $200

Includes transportation to/from parks, admission to parks, 8th grade T-shirt, as well as one meal voucher while at the parks.

**Note: Students must wear the 8th Grade T-Shirt on the trip with no alterations. Dress Code still applies.**

**Due: Completed Transportation form, Gradventure Invitation form, and payment are due by Wednesday, March 6th**

Eligibility: Must maintain Behavioral Eligibility from January 9th through May 10th AND must meet Academic Eligibility by March 6th **AND** must ***maintain*** Academic Eligibility between March 6th through May 10th in order to attend this trip. Students who lose their eligibility status for any reason between January 9th through May 10th will NOT be allowed to attend and **will not receive a refund** for the trip as a ticket will have been purchased and the student will have been accounted for from a transportation standpoint.

**Eighth Grade Dance**

Location: Cafeteria

When: Friday, May 17th from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Cost: $40 (No tickets will be sold at the door. Last day to purchase tickets is Wednesday, May 8th.)

Eligibility: Must Meet ALL Eligibility Criteria by 2:50 P.M., Tuesday, May 7th

Includes admission to the dance, DJ, catered dinner, photo booth, and a gift bag.

**Due: payment for the dance is due by Wednesday, May 8th**

Please remember, May 17th is a school day for our students. More detailed information on dress code and other requirements for the night of the dance will be given out closer to the date.

**Eighth Grade Crown Making**

Location: Classrooms

When: Thursday, May 16th

Crowns will be provided to students on Thursday, May 16th and students can decorate them at home

Students are responsible for decorating their own crowns and bringing them back to school on Wednesday, May 22nd. Students will wear their decorated crown as part of the clap-out celebration.

**Clap Out**

Where: 8th graders line up in front of Portables J1-J5

When: Wednesday, May 22nd

SSMS Staff and students will clap-out all eligible 8th grade students while SSMS band leads them around campus while wearing their decorated crown. JWMHS band and administration will clap-in our 8th graders outside the gymnasium.

**Eighth Grade Field Day**

Where: Practice Field

When: Wednesday, May 22nd

Cost: $35 (For those that did not attend Gradventure includes shirt price)

Cost: $20 (For those that did attend Gradventure since they already purchased a class T-shirt)

Includes the class T-shirt, pizza, beverage, sno-cones/freeze pops, and other treats.

**Due: Field Day Permission form and payment are due by Wednesday, April 24th** (We require this early deadline in order to work with our business vendors.)

Dress Code: School appropriate shorts and 8th Grade Class T-Shirt

Eligibility: Must Meet ALL Academic and Behavioral Eligibility Criteria in order to participate.

**Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony**

Where: SSMS Gymnasium

When: Thursday, May 23rd AM and PM ceremony sessions organized by team. More information will be communicated at a later date. Please note: Each student may invite 4 guests due to our gymnasium capacity.

**Time: Team 8F/8I, and 8EE @ 9:30 AM and Teams 8C/8D/8M will begin promptly @ 12:30 PM**

What: Students are recognized by name and will receive a promotion certificate indicating completion of Middle School.

**Eligibility: Must Meet ALL ACADEMIC Eligibility Criteria by 2:50 PM, Friday, May 17th**

Students with express dismissal forms will be dismissed first and can depart our campus to celebrate with their families!