

# Summit Middle School Newsletter

OCTOBER 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Summit Families:

As we move into the month of October, Summit Staff Members continue to work on improving in person and online learning for students. Some of the improvements you should be seeing already include the following:

1. Fewer emails from teachers and the building
2. An email on Fridays outlining work that will be required for the coming week
3. An increased emphasis on classroom learning and activities when students are at school
4. Increased communication between online teachers and students
5. School clubs offered to both hybrid and online learners (the two most recent are Math Counts and Spanish Club)

Some additional adjustments we plan to make:

1. For hybrid students, using a balance of Edmentum assignments and classroom assignments to determine grades
2. An improved format to clearly communicate assignments in related arts courses
3. An appropriate art course for middle school online learners
4. Additional clubs for hybrid and online learners
5. An improved ability to determine what is appropriate for one week of activities in Edmentum

I appreciate the feedback I have received from families at Summit. Our staff uses every minute of our Wednesday early outs to adjust and improve in regard to the items I listed above. I will continue to work to improve the experience at Summit during this unusual and difficult situation.

Thank you,  
Chris Billings



## THE SECOND ANNUAL UN-FUNDRAISER

The Summit PTO is kicking off the second year of the UN-FUNDRAISER, which is a direct ask for funds. This replaces the magazine sales held in years past. There are multiple benefits to this approach including a higher percentage of funds going directly to the school and less work on behalf of our families.

- **No** walking door-to-door to sell stuff to your neighbors.
- **No** time required to upload emails.
- **No** postcards to mail to your family.

**Is it really that easy to do?** Yes. You just go to GoFundMe by using the link (below); and donate. **DONE!** 100% of the proceeds go directly to Summit Middle School—no fundraising company to take a portion of the profits.\*

**How are the dollars used?** The funds will be used in many ways throughout the year, like teachers grants, teacher appreciation, school supplies for students in need, and our amazing 3D Printers.

As many of you know, necessary PPE for health care professionals was not readily available at the beginning of the Covid-19 Pandemic last spring. As a result, the STEM teachers at Summit Middle School responded by using our 3D printers to create over 400 face shields. In the process, our 3D printers suffered wear and tear associated with printing all day and night. [Click here for KCCI news story.](#)

It is our hope that the Summit PTO fundraiser can help our STEM teachers purchase new 3D printers to replace those that are broken or no longer in prime working order due to intense printing. In addition, now that we know what we are capable of printing, we want to upgrade the quality of printers in our STEM room. This will not only support our STEM department with working printers but will also improve the quality of real-world projects in our STEM classes. We will also repair and continue to use the existing printers where possible.

**Is there any fun?** Absolutely! As we meet these totals, the students (and parents) will be able to celebrate:

- \$10,000 Dunk Tank

· \$15,000 Students shave Mr. Stratton's head (associate principal)

\*Dates TBD and events will be recorded or live streamed for online students to enjoy.

Celebrations will be held on multiple days to enable all to participate while maintaining social distancing.\*\* The big kick off for the kids will be on September 18th (gold) and September 21st (purple) with the end of the campaign on October 16th.

Donate by Clicking [HERE](#)

**Thank you for supporting Summit Middle School this year!**

Summit PTO &  
Chris Billings, Principal

*\*Please note that GoFundMe charges a 3% processing fee.*

*\*\*In the event that Covid presents additional issues we will revisit ways of celebrating.*

## COUNSELOR CORNER

This month's social emotional learning lesson will focus on My Multicultural Self. Students will be able to identify at least 5 facets of their multicultural self, reflect on how any one identity facet shapes the way you view the world and understand how ignoring facets of your multicultural self might be miscommunication.



Summit school counselors will be starting the Summit Culture Club! The Summit Culture Club is a group designed to promote positivity and help ensure our school is a culturally sensitive place for everyone. Please talk to your student and encourage them to apply if they have an interest in this leadership opportunity. Students will be receiving more information on how to apply. If your student has applied to be a part of the Student leaders, please do not apply for the Culture Club as the two groups work closely together.

COVID Recovery Iowa offers many resources to assist Iowans who are struggling. We want to make our parents aware of statewide online support groups. There is a support group for parents, one for teens and one for pre-teens. Please see the attached flyers for more information about these support groups.

Opportunity for FREE Virtual After-School Music Classes through Des Moines Music Coalition (DMMC) offered for ages 11-17!

FREE After-School Classes for Rock Band and Hip Hop are going Virtual this Fall. Students (11-17) will be working with professional musicians, music educators, Hip-Hop artists and special guests while diving into songwriting, recording, production, history, culture and more! **Rock Band** classes will meet weekly **Mondays** from **4:00-5:30** with start date of **October 5th** **Hip Hop** classes will meet weekly **Wednesdays** from **4:00-5:30** with a start date of **October 7th**. You can register at: [registration](#) and DMCC will contact you about details. Please email DMMC Program Coordinator, Jordan Mayland, with any questions: [jordan@desmoinesmc.com](mailto:jordan@desmoinesmc.com)

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) will be held in late October at Summit Middle School. SDQ is a confidential screening to help identify student strengths as well as any areas of challenge that may need help. SDQ is offered to all students 6th-12th grade within our district. Parents must give consent to have their student screened and will receive notification of screening results and follow-up support is offered if necessary. Please watch your emails for the SDQ consent along with an informational letter. We encourage you to consider having your



1PRE-TEEN SUPPORT GROUP UPDATED.pdf



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1TEEN SUPPORT GROUP UPDATED.pdf



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2PARENT SUPPORT GROUP UPDATED.pdf



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## SUMMIT HEALTH OFFICE

**6th grade parents**, as you take your students in for 6th grade physicals, please request that your child receive the Tdap and Meningitis vaccines. Both of these vaccines are due by the first day of 7th grade.

## MATH COUNTS

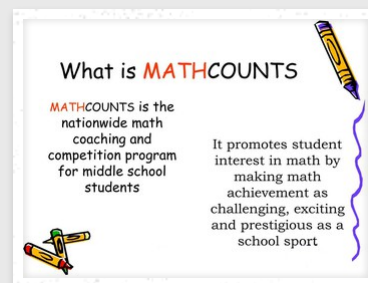
Do you enjoy math?

Do you like solving problems?  
Do you like being part of a team?  
If so, you are invited to join  
MATH COUNTS.

Math Counts is an opportunity to compete against other schools in 6-8th grade across the state. You could be the team or individual that goes to a state or national competition.

Please see or e-mail Mr. Skinner or Ms. Lewis in Team Mission if you are interested in joining our team.

The first meeting is in Mr. Skinner's room at 3:00 Monday, October 5.



## WRESTLING

### SIGN UP FOR 7th/8th WRESTLING!

Any 7th grader wishing to wrestle this year, should sign up at the link below this message. It's important to have an updated physical (see expiration dates on link), and to fill out all the information at the sign up link. We are looking forward to an exciting season, and we welcome all 7th graders, new to the sport and experienced to join the team! If any Summit students or parents have questions, they can reach out to Coach Tecklenburg (JHS head coach, but teaches at Summit) or head middle school coach Joe Huebbe. Our email contacts are below, along with the sign up link. The season is set to begin on Monday October 19th and be completed my mid December.

GO DRAGONS!

### Sign Up Link:

<https://johnstoncsd-ar.schooltoday.com/>

### Contacts:

Joe Huebbe: Head Coach JMS:

[Joe.huebbe@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:Joe.huebbe@johnston.k12.ia.us)

Aaron Tecklenburg: Head Coach JHS:

[aaron.tecklenburg@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:aaron.tecklenburg@johnston.k12.ia.us)

## SPANISH CLUB

Join the Summit Spanish Club! This club is open to all 6th and 7th grade students and does not require previous experience with Spanish. Learn Spanish phrases and experience Spanish

speaking cultures through music, games, sports, food, movies and more. The first meeting will be Tuesday, October 6 from 3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Sign up at this google form:

<https://forms.gle/TU5BxJ2iHxMPY6ek9> and email Ms. Meyer at [jilian.meyer@johnston.k12.ia.us](mailto:jilian.meyer@johnston.k12.ia.us) with any questions. ¡Gracias!



## ATTENDANCE AT SUMMIT

Please call our Attendance line if your child will be absent from school or arriving late. The phone number is 515-986-0941. This is available 24 hours for you to leave a message.

If your child needs to leave early for an appointment, please send a note to school with them. They will bring their note to the office to be issued a pass to leave at the designated time.

To pick up students early for the 2020/2021 school year, please come to door and ring the bell. We will then send your student out to you for pick up.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

### October 1st

Gold Group A Day

### October 2nd

Gold Group B Day

### October 5th

Purple Group A Day

### October 6th

Purple Group B Day

### October 7th

Gold Group CORE Day

Dismissal at 11:50

### October 8th

Gold Group A Day

### October 9th

Gold Group B Day





**October 12th**

Purple Group A Day

**October 13th**

Purple Group B Day

**October 14th**

Purple Group CORE Day

Dismissal at 11:50

**October 15th**

Gold Group A Day

**October 16th**

Gold Group B Day

**October 19th**

Purple Group A Day

**October 20th**

Purple Group B Day

**October 21st**

Gold Group CORE Day

Dismissal at 11:50

**October 22nd**

Gold Group A Day

**October 23rd**

Gold Group B Day

End of First Quarter

**October 26th**

Purple Group A Day

**October 27th**

Purple Group B Day

**October 28th**

Purple Group CORE Day

Dismissal at 11:50

**October 29th**

Gold Group A Day

**October 30th**





## SUMMIT MIDDLE SCHOOL

9500 Windsor Parkway  
Johnston, IA 50131

Office: 515-986-0318

Fax: 515-986-0952

Attendance: 515-986-0941

Nurse: 515-986-0931