



# STAR VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

## October 2018

### Mark Your Calendars

- Oct 2 - Football w/DMS
- Oct 4 - Volleyball @ Rich  
Cross Country @ Fort Bridger  
Football @ Montpelier
- Oct 5 - Shelly Donahue Assembly
- Oct 6 - Volleyball @ Lyman and Mt. View
- Oct 9 - Volleyball @ Pinedale
- Oct 10 - Faculty Meeting
- Oct 11 - 1st Quarter Ends
- Oct 12 - No School
- Oct 13 - Volleyball @ Evanston
- Oct 15 - No School
- Oct 16 - 1st Day of Practice - Girls Basketball  
1st Day of Practice - Wrestling
- Oct 17 - SVMS Book Study
- Oct 18 - Picture Retake Day
- Oct 20 - 8th Grade Band Clinic @ Lyman
- Oct 22-26 - Red Ribbon Week
- Oct 24 - John Bytheway Assembly
- Oct 24 - SVMS Choir Concert, 7pm
- Oct 25 - School Board Forum, 7pm @ SVHS
- Oct 26 - Fall Dance for students
- Oct 27 - Wrestling @ Green River  
Girls Bball @ Jackson
- Oct 31 - Halloween Dress-up Day



### Every absence (excused or not), can impact a child's academic achievement!

See article on 2nd page regarding school attendance and some helpful strategies to help your child succeed.

### Get Involved with Clubs at SVMS!!!

Looking for something to do? Join an after school club this year.

- **Yearbook Club** is already underway, see Mr. Schwab, if interested
- **National Junior Honor Society**, see Mrs. Lewis, if interested
- **Robotics**, starting in October, watch for posters and listen to announcements
- **Soccer** - later in the year, more details to come
- **Gaming** - later in the year, more details to come
- **Dancing** - later in the year, more details to come

There may be more, based upon student interest. Talk to Mr. Burch or Mr. Haderlie about clubs you would like to see at SVMS.

### Picture Retakes - October 18th



### University of Wyoming Artmobile

Will be coming to Star Valley. Plan to see collections from their museum in our building during Parent/Teacher conferences in November

### Library Reading Awards:

Just a reminder that kids at SVMS can become part of the 50, 100, 250, and 500 points club in the library. When you reach each of these milestone points, by testing on the books you've read, you will be eligible to receive the prizes associated with each points club. The prizes are given away at the end of the quarter assemblies. Happy Reading!

### Red Ribbon Week - Oct. 22-26

The purpose of Red Ribbon Week is to present a visible commitment to living a safe, healthy, and drug-free life. The campaign is designed to create awareness concerning the problems related to the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs and to support the decision to live a drug-free lifestyle.



Girls Basketball and Wrestling Practices start October 16th!!





## Make Every Day Count: Boost School Attendance

**T**o stay on track in school, students need to be present every day. Missing 18 or more days of school in a year puts a child's high school graduation at risk, according to BoostUp.org, a national dropout prevention campaign. Being absent for just two days every month of the school year can put a child behind academically.

Students with regular attendance are more likely to read well by third grade and score higher on tests. They also tend to be more engaged in school and feel better about themselves.

Put your child on the path to success with these attendance strategies.

**Make school a priority.** Every absence (excused or not), can impact a child's academic achievement. Talk to your child about how important their education is. Make daily routines for homework and waking up on time for school.

Maintain communication with teachers and keep an eye on your child's academic progress. If your child seems disconnected from school or is prone to skipping class, try signing him or her up for an after-school activity. A report by the University of Minnesota found that students in an after-school program attended 18 more days of school and missed nine fewer than their peers.

**Make a plan.** If your schedule or transportation situation makes getting your child to school a challenge, ask for assistance. Make a carpool or transportation plan with other parents or family members, or ask your school principal for community programs or school initiatives that may help.

**Report In.** Know your school's attendance policies. If an absence or early dismissal is unavoidable, contact your school. If your family's religious observances fall on school days, let teachers know early in the year which days your child will miss.

**Carefully weigh sick days.** If your child is sick, talk with your health care provider to determine whether they should stay home from school. If the doctor or nurse recommends that your child stay home, find out exactly how long and on what conditions he or she can return to class (for example, after 24 hours of antibiotics).

Before keeping your children home, make sure they aren't faking symptoms. Regularly feigning sickness may be a sign that your child is anxious about facing a challenge at school, such as bullying.



**Schedule wisely.** Know your school's calendar, and arrange doctor and dentist appointments after school, on weekends, or during holiday breaks, if possible. Resist the urge to schedule vacations when students will miss school. This gives students the impression that school is not a priority.

**Help students complete assignments.** When your child has to miss school, make arrangements with teachers

to pick up a packet of make-up work. Ensure that your child follows through, and be available to explain concepts or monitor their work. If your child's absence will be lengthy (for surgery, for instance), alert teachers as soon as you know and pick up assignments as the days go on.

### Web Resources

**Get Schooled** has a number of attendance-related games and tools, including the Attendance Counts calculator and celebrity wake-up calls for students. <https://getschooled.com/>

The Children's Hospital of Colorado's **How Sick is Too Sick? guide** can help families decide which symptoms should keep students at home. <http://bit.ly/1860RIA>

**Attendance Works** offers research, webinars, and handouts designed with elementary and middle-level parents in mind. <http://www.attendanceworks.org/tools/>