

Good morning Sarasota Middle School! Today is Thursday, February 15th!



A few words of wisdom to start your day...

How many of you have heard the word virtue? It's not a word we hear very much anymore, but it's a word worth knowing about. As a matter of fact, it comes from the Latin word *virtus*, which means "worth." Let's think about that. If a person has a lot of *self-worth*, then she has virtue. She values herself and the world around her. She's honest. She has a strong sense of what's right and what's wrong. It's too bad virtue has become such an old-fashioned word. Maybe we should bring it back into style. Now listen to the words of Dante, a famous poet of the Middle Ages: "You were not born to live like brutes, but to follow after virtue and knowledge." Today, remember the words of Dante and follow after knowledge. Listen to your teachers, study hard, and go the extra mile. Then be good to yourself and to each other. After all, we're not brutes, are we? With something to think about, make it a great day. The choice is always yours.

Important reminder – Breakfast service begins at 9:00am. Any student who arrives after 9:25am will only be able to purchase a grab and go breakfast. If you are interested in getting breakfast, then you must report to the cafeteria upon your arrival. Do not wait until the 9:15 bell rings.

It is school policy to have all cell phones and personal devices turned off during the school day and concealed from view. Today, as in everyday, you should refrain from texting, make phone calls, or taking pictures or videos during the day. Students, please take a moment to ensure your devices are turned off and put safely away at this time.

Staff, if you have any students who you believe are not dressed for success, please send them to the main office for assistance at this time.

Staff all buses arrived on time today. There were no late arrivals and all students should be on time from breakfast service.

First track meet today – Good Luck Panthers!

Advanced Chorus will attend the Opera field trip today, students please report to Chorus at 10:00 a.m.

Student and staff, please know that the entire School District and our Panthers family are sending our deepest sympathies and prayers to the Major Stoneman Douglas High School community. Safety of all is our top priority every day and I want you all to know SMS will have additional law enforcement presence today. Please be an Observer, Be Vigilant and report! SMS Staff are on hand to assist with any questions and/or concerns.

Students, remember our Panther Pact: be Polite, Prepared, Productive and Safe. Have a thoughtful Thursday!