

December 16, 2018

Dear Titan Families,

Last week was a TERRIFIC week at SLMS---great band, choir, and orchestra concerts, fabulous theater productions, a special Kickstart belt ceremony, and an awesome Spelling Bee! Now we are in the home stretch with final exams and the start of Winter Break. Here are some quick reminders about this week. Please make sure you take a moment to read and take note of the items below.

### **Semester Exams Start December 18 – Important Information**

The [semester exam schedule](#) may be found on our campus webpage. **Please note that no exams may be taken early.** Opportunities to take missed exams occur daily after school in Room 104 starting Tuesday, January 8, and **all exams must be made up by Friday, January 18.** This is a two week window to complete exams. **We will also have opportunities for your child to make up his/her exams on Monday, January 7 (a teacher professional development day).** We will start exams at 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 1:00 PM. Please check in at the front office, and then report to the counseling suite. Please arrive 15 minutes ahead of your desired start time.

### **Early Release Day Expectations**

Please also note that on our **early release days of Thursday, December 20, and Friday, December 21**, our day will end at **1:25 PM**. We have set aside 30 minutes for all students to eat lunch from 10:50-11:20 AM on both of those days. What is different, though, is that students will have **two options for lunch**—bring lunch from home or order a sack lunch from the cafeteria. Students will order their lunches for Thursday and Friday during their classes on Wednesday to give the cafeteria staff ample time to plan. **Please note that due to exams, we will be unable to deliver lunches brought during the day by parents.**

Last, but also important, on our **early release days (December 20 and 21)**, students will not be visiting their lockers. **Therefore, no backpacks or string bags will be allowed at school on these early release days.** Students may only bring **pencils**, their **semester exam reviews**, a **book to read**, and a **lunch from home** (if not ordering a sack lunch from the cafeteria). Girls may bring a small purse, if needed. Dress code will still be in effect on early release days and on all exam days. Therefore, no blankets, pillows, pajamas, slippers, hats, etc., will be permitted on these days, just as they are not permitted on regular school days.

### **Drive Thru Dinner – January 23, 2019**

Need an easy solution for dinner? Please order a boxed Chicken Fried Chicken dinner between now and January 18<sup>th</sup> for a drive-thru delivery on January 23<sup>rd</sup> between 4:30 and 7:00 PM. Dinners are only \$10 each. See [this posting on our campus webpage](#) for more details. You may drop off your order and payment at the reception desk at SLMS anytime between now and January 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Laptop Lending Library**

Starting in January, students will have access to a Laptop Lending Library. Students will have the opportunity to check out a laptop to support their learning and to use for educational purposes. The devices will also have a hotspot that will allow students to access the Internet to use educational resources (e.g., Schoology, Word Online, etc.). The main purpose of the Lending

Library is to provide students with access to a laptop and the Internet for a two-week period so that they can complete online assignments, conduct research, and create products for their coursework.

Devices will be checked out like a library book. A student may extend his/her checkout period if there is no request or other student on a waiting list for a device when your child checks in the laptop at the end of the lending period.

Before a device may be checked-out, parents and students will have some online forms to complete through Skyward Family Access. Full details about these documents and Lending Library procedures will be posted on our webpage and emailed to families in January, as well as communicated to students. We hope that students will find these devices to be helpful, and we are excited that SLMS was chosen to pilot this program, along with Kempner High School.

### **Yearbooks**

Please visit [www.balfour.com](http://www.balfour.com) and search for Sugar Land Middle School to purchase your yearbook. The price is \$40.00. Our students are working hard to produce a high-quality book! 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents: the deadline to order an ad in the yearbook for your 8<sup>th</sup> grade child is February 1. Visit [www.balfour.com](http://www.balfour.com), search for Sugar Land MS, and then select either 1/4 or 1/8 of a page. \$25 for small size, \$45 for large size. Send your written ad message to [molly.childs@fortbendisd.com](mailto:molly.childs@fortbendisd.com) so that it may be included in the ad.

### **Are You Moving During the Break?**

If you are planning to move during the break and your child will no longer attend Sugar Land MS for the next semester, please come by the school to fill out an *Intent to Withdraw* form. This form needs to be processed before the semester ends. The last day to come in and fill out the form will be December 19. See Mrs. Phillips. Thank you in advance for your help, and we wish you the best!

### **Keeping Up With SLMS**

Be sure follow us on Twitter ([@SLMSTitans](https://twitter.com/SLMSTitans)), keep up with your child's grades, etc., on Skyward Family Access (instructions may be found on our campus webpage), see your child's work in progress through our blended learning platform, Schoology (instructions on campus webpage), and monitor our campus webpage ([www.fortbendisd.com/slms](http://www.fortbendisd.com/slms)) and the PTO website ([www.slmspto.org](http://www.slmspto.org)) regularly.

I and the entire SLMS faculty and staff wish you and your family the best during the Winter Break. We have had a great first semester, and I know that the second semester will be a great one, too!

Kindest regards,

Keith Fickel, Principal  
Sugar Land Middle School