

## QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

**Homelink** An online service provided through the school district for students and parents to monitor grades and assignments. A secure, unique password is provided to you at Registration to access your student's Homelink account online.

**Parent Patrol** Each family is required to sign up for one two-hour Parent Patrol (per child) prior to Registration. Parent patrollers help monitor the common areas (blacktop, etc.) during lunch to ensure safety and appropriate behavior. Link to sign-up online for 2016-17

Parent Patrol: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4da5ac22a57-smsppatrolcopy1>

**Parent-Faculty Club** An active group of involved parents and faculty who provide support to Sequoia Middle School through organized activities, volunteering and fundraising. The PFC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, holds open monthly meetings, and has an elected board of directors.

**Library Add-a-Day Fall Campaign** With the budget reductions over the past several years, our school's library time has been drastically reduced. This direct-donation campaign raises enough money to add one day of library time each week for the school year.

**Celebrate Sequoia** This spring event celebrates our great SMS community with dinner, music, raffles, and a small silent and live auction. This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and helps support many classroom needs.

**Music Boosters** Our music booster club dedicates volunteer and fundraising support to our music program. The boosters pay for instrument repairs, music, competition entrance fees, awards for the students, and equipment to assist the music program.

**Technology Fund** Sequoia Middle is committed to developing students' 21st-century skills by fully integrating technology into the classroom. In order to fulfill this goal, we strive to equip our site with the latest technology and instructional strategies. The Technology Fund supports our short- and long-term tech needs to accomplish this essential goal.

**Associated Student Body (ASB) Sticker** This sticker is available for purchase at Registration for \$10 and is placed on your student's ID card. It entitles your student to *free* admission to grade-level events, and student activities and campus programs.

**Renaissance & Incentives Program** This program provides rewards and incentives to students who excel academically and who provide volunteer support to our school throughout the year.

**Leadership Program** For seventh and eighth graders, Leadership provides many opportunities for students to assume leadership roles throughout the community. Leadership students organize student body and charitable activities, run their own fundraising efforts and provide support at many school functions.

**Block schedule: Blue and Silver days** Sequoia Middle runs on a block schedule, with periods 1, 2, 3 and 4 on Blue Days and periods 5, 6, 7 and 8 on Silver Days, alternating every other day. A complete Blue/Silver Day schedule is provided on the school website.

**H.O.T.** H.O.T. stands for Hands-on-Technology. This tech lab offers elective courses for all grades (quarter-long for 6th, semester-long for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>). It is different from the PC Lab and Mac Lab in that it is a course that teaches technology skills with a career focus.

**Rotation** Sixth graders have four “rotation classes,” which are elective classes that change each quarter.

**Core Classes** Sixth and seventh graders have a core teacher, which is much like “homeroom” teachers of the past. In 6th grade, the core includes English, Reading and World History I; in 7th grade the core class includes English and World History II. The core classes are taught by the same teacher and are comprised of the same students. Eighth graders do not have core classes.

**Electives** Sequoia Middle offers many more electives than other area middle schools, thanks to willing teachers and our block schedule. Elective selection is made in the spring when SMS publishes a handbook of elective course descriptions for the next school year. Students must have parents sign their elective choice card, which they turn in to their core teacher. Although all efforts are made to provide students with their elective choice, it is not always possible.

**Fall Fest** A fun (chaperoned) afternoon social event organized by Leadership students for 6th graders only, Fall Fest features a dance contest, music and socializing for newly minted middle schoolers to get to know one another.

**School Site Council** This is a group of elected administrators, teachers, students and parents who advise the principal on the state-authorized Single Plan for Student Achievement.