

Sweeney Happenings

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Meeting the Needs of All Students: Targeted Instruction

In the last edition of Sweeney Happenings I talked about our work to develop a common model of instruction for our students. Our work continues at Sweeney as we prepare for next year. One of the important elements of our model will be called Targeted Instruction.

What is Targeted Instruction? Simply, it is our daily commitment to your children that they will receive a small group lesson that is tightly connected to Core Instruction. That is, these lessons will be differentiated to the level of your child.

We believe that this approach will allow us to serve more students more effectively as we work to provide a more individualized learning op-

portunity for your child.

Targeted Instruction is a meaningful opportunity for us as educators to provide a better education for your students. We will work to provide all students with meaningful small group lessons and independent work that is at your child's independent level. With careful planning and intentional instruction we believe that we will see students make even stronger gains in learning.

If you have further questions about our new model of instruction for next year please feel free to contact me. I would be happy to visit with you further about the future of Sweeney.

To date, you have received

overviews or Core and Targeted Instruction. Next month I will provide an overview on how we use assessments to drive our instruction.



**Follow Sweeney and
Mr. Savage on Twitter**

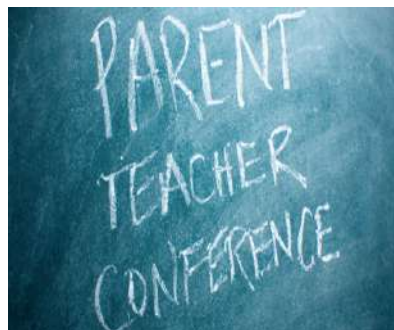
If you are Twitter user you can follow



Sweeney Elementary via
[@mikesavage1](https://twitter.com/mikesavage1)

Another Great Turnout at Sweeney for Conferences

Once again, Sweeney families came out strong for conferences the last two weeks. Snow storms and cold temps were not enough to keep you all away! Kudos to you! It is our pleasure to provide meaningful updates on



your children. Hopefully you found the time well spent.

Our partnership with you is one of the most important reasons Sweeney is such a great school! It was great to see you all!

Sweeney Stories

When the class was asked who would like to run for student council representative, one child expressed concern by saying, "Well, how far would I have to run?"

- 3rd Grade Student,
Sweeney Elementary

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) Right Around the Corner

Attention 3rd, 4th and 5th grade families! As you may know the state MCAs are coming up very soon. This month expect communication from your child's teacher about the upcoming MCAs. All 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students in Minnesota take the MCA in reading and math. Additionally all 5th graders take the MCA in science.

The MCA is a spring assessment that measures your child's overall performance in core subject areas. Further, they serve as our school's report card to the state. Our effectiveness as a school is largely based on how students perform on the MCA.

Although the assessments are very important we also realize that they are a 'moment in time'

reflection on how your child is doing academically. MCAs will occur in the month of April. Your child's specific testing dates will be sent to you.



Spring Break 2013

Spring Break is the week of March 25-29.

We wish you all a wonderful and restful break.

School will resume in April as we begin our spring season!



Minnesota Reading Corp Returns, Math Corp Joins the Team

For next school year we are excited to announce that Sweeney will be a Minnesota Reading Corp Site for a third consecutive year and a Math Corp site for the first time! Reading and Math Corp offers our school three tutors to provide one on one tutoring for our students.

Interested in being a tutor? Tutors receive a living allowance and a financial award for student loan payment. If this is of interest to you please contact me for further details.



March and April Events at Sweeney

March 15
March 25-29
April 1
April 3
April 8
April 9

Grade 1 Visitation Day
Spring Break: No School
Teacher Planning Day: No School
Spring Picture Day
Report Cards Sent Home
PTO Meeting, 6:30PM