

Sussman Middle School Newsletter

February 2024



A Message from the Principal Dr. Quintero

For the month of February, I thought it would be fitting to share some of the reasons **why I love Sussman Middle School**.

Our school thrives as a dynamic community, enriched by the unwavering **dedication of our staff and the continuous growth of our students**. This was strikingly evident in December when our students took their 2nd iReady math and reading diagnostic. The results were nothing short of remarkable – **Sussman students demonstrated the most growth in both subjects across the middle schools (and the elementary schools)**.

This academic year has been especially thrilling as we've broadened our **elective offerings**. For the first time, students at Sussman don't have to limit their ambitions or interests. From leadership and engineering to art, band, and AVID, the options are diverse and expanding. We've introduced exciting new electives like Food Science, Pioneer Pals, 6th Grade AVID, photography, Introduction to Law & Mock Trial, and American Sign Language. Moreover, we've added more sections to our Engineering courses, reflecting our **commitment to adapt and grow with our students' interests**.

Above all, **the heart of Sussman Middle School beats because of our students**. Their unique qualities and perspectives enrich our campus life, making every day a new adventure. They are the reason we strive to do better, to be better. **GO PIONEERS!**

Important Dates

- 2/1: ELPAC Testing Begins
- 2/1: IB MYP Application Opens
- 2/5: **NO SCHOOL**
- 2/10: Saturday School 8am-12pm
- 2/12: Lincoln's Bday **NO SCHOOL**
- 2/14: Valentine's Day
- 2/15: Parent Ed & 8th Grade Parent Meeting
- Preparing for High School & Beyond, Requirements for 8th Grade Activities**
- 2/19: President's Day **NO SCHOOL**
- 2/20: Coffee with the Superintendent at 6pm in SMS Library



Extra Curricular Events

- 22/1-2/8: Basketball Tryouts, **See the specific dates attached**
- 2/3: Competitive Robotics Tournament in Los Angeles
- 2/6- 2/20: Intramural Basketball **(during lunch)**

Character Corner with ASB President, Kaylie Castillejos

Why I LOVE Sussman: Here at Sussman we have amazing teachers, administrators, and staff, who are very supportive and encouraging to all students. We also have great programs, classes, and activities that help us prepare for our futures beyond Sussman. We show our appreciation for SMS through many events and activities like Character Counts Week and Pep Rallies.

Cheers to SUSSMAN LOVE!



Basketball Tryouts

All tryouts will be in the gym

**Wear athletic/PE clothes and shoes
and be on time!**

Girls 6: Thurs, Feb 8, 3:00 (Coach Marine, Room T2)

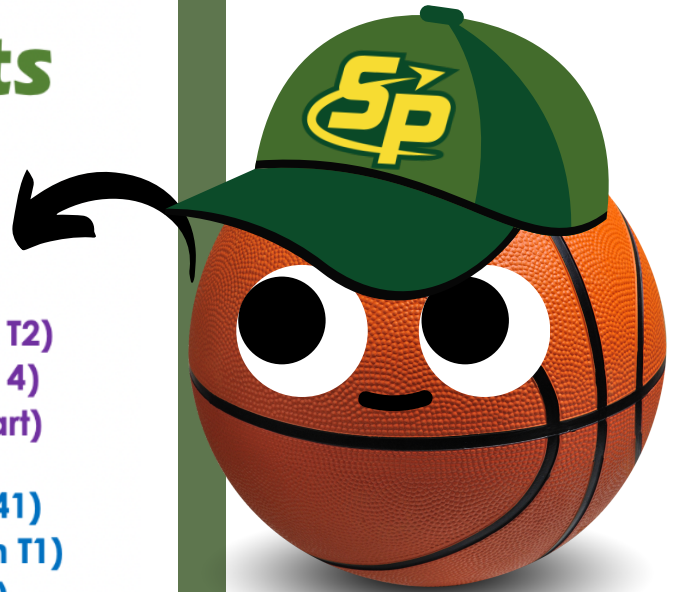
Girls 7: Wed, Feb 7, 1:45 (Coach Spittell, Room 4)

Girls 8: Fri, Feb 2, 1:45 (Coach Ortiz, security cart)

Boys 6: Wed, Feb 7, 1:45 (Coach Byers, Room 41)

Boys 7: Tues, Feb 6, 3:00 (Coach Calvario, Room T1)

Boys 8: Thurs, Feb 1, 3:00 (Coach Bisorca, PE)



SMS Engineering



SMS offers multiple elective courses focused on Engineering. Those courses are designed by Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and include Flight and Space, Design and Modeling, and Automation and Robotics. These electives are semester-long. Students who are interested in competing in VEX Robotics competitions have the opportunity to take a full-year competitive course. There are currently eight teams competing. See the stats below on a few of our teams who have been recognized for their excellence.

Team
84949Z
"Henry"

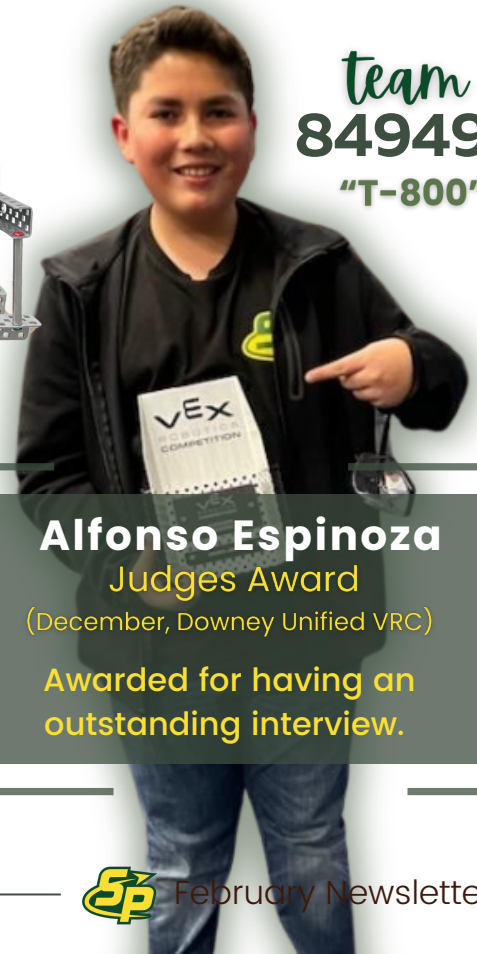


Griffin Isai, Ace That, Adrian Cortes, and Joseph Siordia

Innovation Award & Tournament Finalists
(December, Downey Unified VRC)

Qualifies **84949Z** for:
VEX State Championship
United States Open in Iowa

Team
84949 A
"T-800"



Alfonso Espinoza
Judges Award

(December, Downey Unified VRC)

**Awarded for having an
outstanding interview.**

