

Swan Meadow School Advisory Committee Report



March 9, 2023 at 6pm

Swan Meadow School (est.1892)



Introduction

The Swan Meadow School occupies a unique role within the school system as well as in the culture of Garrett County.

Although it is not located in a municipality or town, it is a community school, in the sense that it is prized by the households it serves and draws upon a great deal of community participation. Since 1892, this school has been an integral part of our county. For multiplied generations, Swan Meadow School has connected people from all walks of life. The attachment that the community has for this school was made evident in listening and feedback sessions throughout the RISE Plan and Strategic Facilities Plan development in 2019.

Student Enrollment: 2022-23

SCHOOL	PK	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Swan Meadow	0	2	6	2	5	4	4	8	4	3	38
Yough Glades	33	33	38	39	45	32	49			*	276
Southern Middle								136	163	135	434
Total	33	35	44	41	50	36	53	144	167	138	752
Average Class Size- Yough Glades	16	17	19	20	23	16	25				
Average Class Size- Southern Middle								19	22	20	
Class Size- Multi Grade Swan Meadow				10			13			15	

*Yough Glades also has 2- ALO classrooms with a total of 7 students

Student Enrollment Trends

- Creating a border for Swan Meadow has not stabilized enrollment
- Families that live next door to Swan Meadow are still "Out of Area"
- In 9/30/2020, the student enrollment/capacity ratio was 45/69 (65%).

Building Conditions

AIC Facility Maintenance Assessment -

- A Facility Maintenance Assessment was completed on October 18, 2022
- Swan Meadow was given a score of 73.47% - Adequate

Table of Contents:

- Assessment - 73.47%
- Site - 76.54%
- Building Exterior - 80.83%
- Building Interior - 72%
- Building Equipment & Systems - 72.78%
- Maintenance Management - 65%

Building Conditions

- **Swan Meadow School achieved an “Adequate” rating with the Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC) Facility Maintenance Assessment, which was conducted at Swan Meadow School on October 18, 2022.**
- **Mr. Richard Wesolowski, Garrett County Board of Education Director of Maintenance, Facilities, Operations, and Transportation, said at the January 6, 2023 Swan Meadow School Advisory Committee Meeting, “The spaces in Swan Meadow School are adequate, based on the school’s instructional needs.”**
- **Swan Meadow School parents prefer their small community school that embodies their family values.**

Utility Cost:

Chart A: FY' 22 Total Utilities -

		Swan Meadow	Yough Glades	Southern Middle
Internet		4,800	9,000	9,000
Office Phone		1,238	965	972
Heat		9,339	40,186	87,831
Electricity		5,523	37,557	85,204
Water/Sewage			2,165	7,878
Total Utilities FY22		20,899	89,873	190,885
9/30/21 Enrollment		44	271	461
Per Pupil Expense		\$ 474.98	\$ 331.63	\$ 414.07

Transportation

Mr. Wesoloski:

- No extra cost in transportation
- Ride times for some students may increase by 10-15 minutes
- K-8 students residing in the Swan Meadow attendance area will ride their current school bus either to Yough Glades or Southern Middle School
- Swan Meadow School district boundary was based only on one school years enrollment (August 3, 2015) so it does not include families who live on Mansfield Road adjacent to the school
- In the past, Swan Meadow School has attracted home school families that want their child(ren) in a small community school
- Over 50% of the current Swan Meadow School students are parent drop off/pick up
- On the recent drivers manifest the number of students being transported on the three Swan Meadow buses this year are listed below. I don't anticipate that number changing by much next year if the board votes to close the school.
- Bus # 7 -50
- Bus # 36 – 45
- Bus #78 – 43

Educational Programs

All three schools offer the same basic instructional educational programs

Unique Swan Meadow educational opportunities include:

- No PreK class (most community families prefer to homeschool their 3-4-5 year old children)
- Our multi-grade classrooms, (as research shows), allow for remediation and enrichment of multi-aged students

Educational Programs

- Grades 6, 7, and 8 in one classroom (middle school students develop leadership skills while mentoring younger students and planning school wide events)
- K-8 specialized Math/ELA content instruction
- K-8 Community Christmas Theatre Program
- Chorus performance at the following Community events: Harvest Sale, Christmas Program, Valentine Love Gift Distribution, and Graduation (and a spring band concert)



Swan Meadow School

2018 - 2019 School Report Card



4 OUT OF 5 STARS

Percentile Rank: 77 (Elementary) , 96 (Middle)

Swan Meadow School (1812)
Grade Levels: Elementary/Middle
County: Garrett County

6709 Garrett Highway
Oakland, MD 21550-2139
Phone: 301-334-2059

HOW DID MY SCHOOL DO OVERALL?

Overall school performance is determined by a combination of academic and school quality indicators. The total earned points percent is provided as well as a percentile rank and a star designation.

INDICATOR	POSSIBLE POINTS	EARNED POINTS*	ANNUAL TARGET	IMPROVEMENT
Academic Achievement (E/M)	20.0 / 20.0	11.7 / 13.4	✖ / ✖	✖ / ✔
Academic Progress (E/M)	25.0 / 25.0	17.0 / 17.0	na / na	✖ / ✔
Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency (E/M)	na / na	na / na	na / na	na / na
School Quality and Student Success (E/M)	15.0 / 22.0	14.5 / 21.6	na / na	✔ / ✔
TOTAL POINTS:	60.0 / 67.0	43.2 / 52.0		

$$\frac{\text{Total Earned Points: } (43.2 + 52.0) \text{ } 95.2}{\text{Total Points Possible: } (60.0 + 67.0) \text{ } 127.0} =$$

74%

TOTAL EARNED PERCENT

Swan Meadow
historically has
exceptional
state test
scores over the
years



Yough Glades Elementary

2018 - 2019 School Report Card



3 OUT OF 5 STARS

Percentile Rank: 37 (Elementary)

Yough Glades Elementary (1710)
Grade Levels: Elementary
County: Garrett County

70 Wolf Acres Dr
Oakland, MD 21550-2022
Phone: 301-334-3334

HOW DID MY SCHOOL DO OVERALL?

Overall school performance is determined by a combination of academic and school quality indicators. The total earned points percent is provided as well as a percentile rank and a star designation.

INDICATOR	POSSIBLE POINTS	EARNED POINTS*	ANNUAL TARGET	IMPROVEMENT
Academic Achievement	20.0	8.6	✖	✖
Academic Progress	35.0	16.7	na	✖
Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency	na	na	na	na
School Quality and Student Success	35.0	28.0	na	✖
TOTAL POINTS:	90.0	53.3		

Total Earned Points: **53.3**

=

Total Points Possible: **90.0**

59%

TOTAL EARNED PERCENT



Southern Middle School

2018 - 2019 School Report Card



3 OUT OF 5 STARS

Percentile Rank: 45 (Middle)

Southern Middle School (2708)

Grade Levels: Middle

County: Garrett County

605 Harvey Winters Road

Oakland, MD 21550-4350

Phone: 301-334-8881

HOW DID MY SCHOOL DO OVERALL?

Overall school performance is determined by a combination of academic and school quality indicators. The total earned points percent is provided as well as a percentile rank and a star designation.

INDICATOR	POSSIBLE POINTS	EARNED POINTS*	ANNUAL TARGET	IMPROVEMENT
Academic Achievement	20.0	8.5	✖	✖
Academic Progress	31.5	13.8	na	✖
Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency	na	na	na	na
School Quality and Student Success	35.0	23.0	na	✖
TOTAL POINTS:	86.5	45.3		

Total Earned Points: **45.3**

=

Total Points Possible: **86.5**

52%

TOTAL EARNED PERCENT

Educational Programs

Public School Review Site

2023 SCHOOL YEAR - GARRETT COUNTY SCHOOL RATINGS

- Swan Meadow School: Rated #1 Elementary and Middle School in Garrett County with a rating of 8/10

Math proficiency: 39% (Maryland average: 20%) (2020-21 school year)

Reading proficiency: 59% (Maryland average: 36%)

- Higher test scores attributed to lower student to teacher ratio of 11:1 and multi-grade classrooms that allow for remedial help and also to challenge the students that benefit from being able to move ahead

Racial Composition

School	Black/African American	Hispanic/Latino	Asian	White	Multi-Racial/Other	American Indian/Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
Yough Glades	0	3	0	271	6	0	0
Southern Middle	5	7	2	416	4	0	0
Swan Meadow	0	0	0	38	0	0	0

Racial diversity in Garrett County Schools (as a whole) has been a low percentage for many years. The averages for the past **10 years** are as follows:

Yough Glades - 2.24% Southern Middle - 2.33% Swan Meadow - 1.35%

***Current Cultural Diversity of Swan Meadow School
63% (24 out of 38 students are Amish/Mennonite)**

Financial Considerations

Weighted Student Funding

A weighted student funding system

1. Allocates a base amount for all students and then
2. Allocates additional amount(s) for students with certain characteristics called sub groups.

English Learner				\$8,310
2nd grader (TSI)		\$665		
FARMS (Comp Ed)	\$7,396			\$7,396
Special Education	\$7,147	\$7,147		
Base Amount (Foundation)	\$8,310	\$8,310	\$8,310	\$8,310
	Student A	Student B	Student C	Student D
	\$22,853	\$16,122	\$24,016	\$8,310

Blueprint Required Student Sub Groups:

- High Poverty/Low Income
- English Learners
- Special Education
- Meeting CCR standard
- Grade Bands (PK & K-3)

Using the "Weighted Student Funding" of the Blueprint the forecast funding for FY-23 would be the following for the 39 students now at Swan Meadow school.

39 base students @ \$8,310 = \$ 324,090

14 FARM students @ \$ 7,396 = \$ 103,544

5 Special Ed students @ 7,147 = \$ 35,735

Total \$ 463,369

(This does not include 2nd grade students of which Swan Meadow has 2.)

Unfortunately the \$ 463,369 of State and County Funds generated using the Blueprint for Swan Meadow for FY-23 for all expenses including all staff salaries will not cover even the expenses incurred at Swan Meadow for FY-22 which were \$ 563,544 for the 44 students.(See Revenue and Expense Analysis with Weighted Student Funding Methodology Applied below)

Revenue vs. Expense Analysis with Weighted Student Funding Methodology Applied					
Garrett County Public Schools					
Unrestricted Funding Actuals as of 6/30/2022					
	System-wide		Swan Meadow	Yough Glades	
Enrollment:	9/30/2020	9/30/2021			
Actual K-12 Enrollment	3,489.75	3,348.25	44	248	
Revenues	Totals	Non-Direct			
75% Model	52,111,954	17,202,603	431,468	2,839,420	
Expenses:					
Total Actual Expenses	51,796,729	12,798,487	563,544	3,328,420	
Overallocated (Underallocated)	(315,225)	(4,404,116)	132,076	489,000	
Overallocated (Underallocated) Percentage		-26%	31%	17%	

Analysis of Overall Spending					
Garrett County Public Schools					
Unrestricted Expenses As of 6/30/2022					
Direct to Schools					
Elementary	18,004,131				
Middle	8,547,771				
High	12,446,341				
		38,998,242	75%		
Other Expenses:					
Hickory Environmental Center	438,980				
PreSchool (Birth-3)	62,654				
Student Transportation	4,293,282				
Central Office/Dennett Road	8,003,571				
		12,798,487	25%		
Total Expenses		51,796,729			
Original Provided 12/14/2022 to the Advisory Committee for School Closure by GCPS, revised provided 12/16/2022.					

In FY-22 the BOE provided \$ 132,076 over and above the \$ 431,468 that would normally have been allocated to Swan Meadow. That's \$ 3,002 per student.

While inflation and mandated Blueprint increased salary requirements, along with forecast declining enrollment at Swan Meadow, the gap between revenue and expenses will widen.

Student Relocations

PTO asked all parents directly what their plans will be if Swan Meadow School closes.

Answers:

- Number of students currently enrolled - 39
- Students moving to Yough Glades - 1
- Students moving to Southern Middle - 3
- Students to homeschooling - 22
- Students to private schooling - 13

**35 SM students will
withdraw from GCPS**

Question: What is the net financial impact of closing Swan Meadow?

- Teachers and staff will continue employment
- 35 Swan Meadow students will be leaving the system

Considering these two bullet points, the school system will pay the same amount in teacher's salaries regardless of the school closing.

Mathematically, this allows us to remove this variable from the equation as the net impact under both scenarios is unchanged.

For the accountants in the room, I would consider this a 'net value analysis'.

In short, it allows the decision maker to focus on the actual difference vs. the perceived difference.

The Analysis:

The two variables left to consider are the Revenue - Expenses

Closing Swan Meadow (3 Foundation + 1 Special Education):

$\$32,000 - \$0 = \$32,000$ (system)

$\$24,000 - \$0 = \$24,000$ (schools)

Leaving Swan Meadow Open (38 Foundation + 5 Special Education + 13 FARMS):

$\$447,000 - \$120,000 = \$327,000$ (system)

$\$335,000 - \$120,000 = \$215,000$ (schools)

*Leaving Swan Meadow Open has a net impact of **\$295,000**

Community Impacts for Swan Meadow

- With the closing of Swan Meadow Community School, the majority of families will withdraw their children and future generations of children from the Garrett County Public School system. This withdraw decision is directly reflective of cultural values and beliefs. This will unfortunately put an additional financial burden on these families. This will also create an additional financial burden on the community at large and their ability to continue to contribute to those in need in the community and services like the local fire and rescue squad.
- Swan Meadow has a history of 73 years (Harvest Sale) of friends, family and local communities coming together to support the Swan Meadow School
- Swan Meadow PTO annual Love Gifts to community members in need will be lost

Spring Sprucing Day



Community Impacts: Swan Meadow

- Hands-on educational environmental gardening projects at Swan Meadow such as the butterfly garden, native wildflower meadow, chestnut saplings, and the vegetable low tunnel that the students plant, weed, harvest, and sell produce in the community and at their Harvest Sale
- Swan Meadow School has been a local place for our graduates to come and earn their GED diploma
- Swan Meadow annual community Christmas program is held each December at the Pleasant Valley Community Center with standing room only
- Community families also come together for an annual school picnic and 8th grade graduation. This is an annual Community reunion which is another opportunity for the local communities to unify.
- Kids Helping Kids Maryland Community/Local food bank that benefits Garrett County families. The past 19 years, the students have donated 31,640 pounds of almost 16 tons of food to local hungry families!
- Swan Meadow has participated in the St. Jude Children's Math-A-Thon since 1989 and has raised \$32,704.03 to date! What a history of dedication to the mission of the hospital of Finding Cures and Saving Children! Next month's Math-A-Thon will be donated in honor of Fletcher Layne Fazenbaker.

Swan Meadow Christmas Play



heri plays Mary and Eli
plays Joseph in the K-1-2
Christmas play.

Travis, a guitarist, plays *What Child is This* with his
mother, flutist Elizabeth Martin in a duet.

Community Impacts: Swan Meadow

- 1949-2022 Harvest Sale Annual Fundraiser-

Due to the school's cross-cultural connection through the Harvest Sale and other community events, cultural stereotypes and misconceptions have been minimized, creating more unity within Garrett County and beyond.

The diversity within the Swan Meadow community fosters collaborative and cross cultural relationships beyond its borders. This has impacted the community since the start of Swan Meadow School in 1892.

- The Harvest Sale is an annual fundraiser for each school year and provides for the needs of the school including extra curricular field trips.
- 73 years of Swan Meadow School PTO's Harvest Sales would come to an end. Community members and many from the tri-state area, meet and celebrate their support of a beloved culture and school. In addition to a delicious dinner, homemade doughnuts, fresh pressed apple cider and hand-pulled taffy - all reminders of our Appalachian home - an auction of fresh produce, dinners in peoples homes, donated products and services, handmade crafts, handmade quilts and numerous other donations is held to raise funds for the school. Those funds are tallied and the PTO then tithes 10% to local organizations like the Oakland Volunteer Fire Department, Southern Garrett Rescue Squad and also local individuals in need.
- The Harvest Sale could continue with all activities taking place at the Pleasant Valley Community Center but it wouldn't be the students producing this event.

Harvest Sale



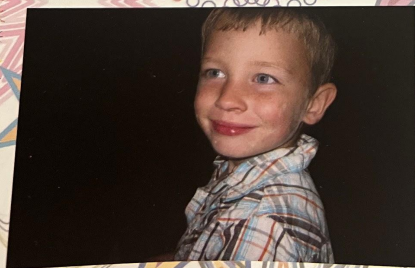
The crafts that the students made this year are being displayed and sold.



Autumn



The quilt that the K-1-2 grades create is being sold in the auction.

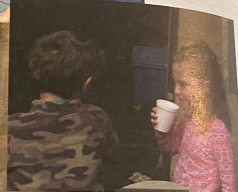
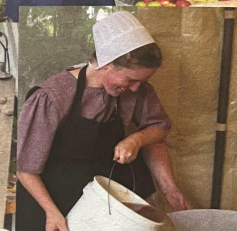


Aiden has a blast at the 66th Annual Harvest Sale.



There's a lot of work put into the Harvest Sale. The whole crew was out to help tote, wash, press, strain and taste while preparing the apple cider.

Harvest Sale 2013

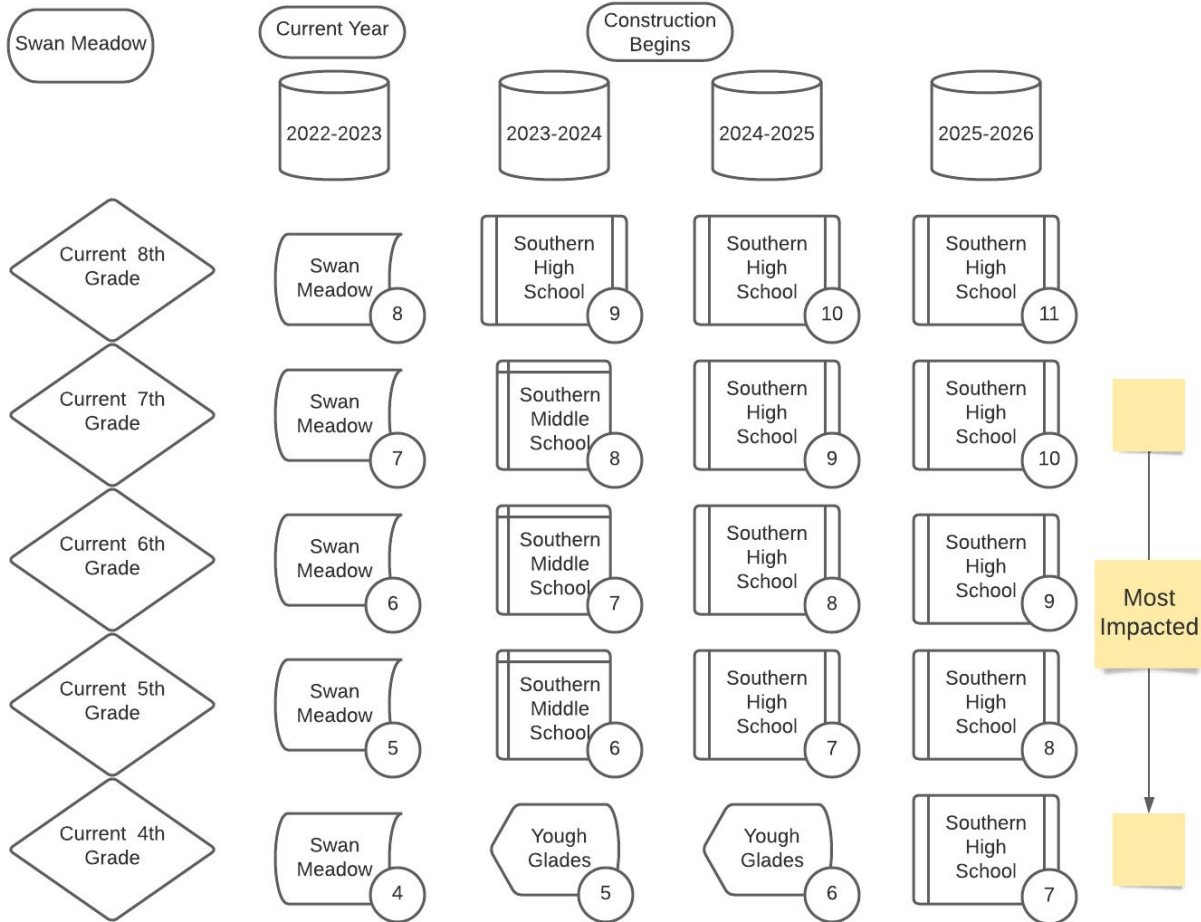


Making goodies for the Harvest Sale is always so much fun with a friend!



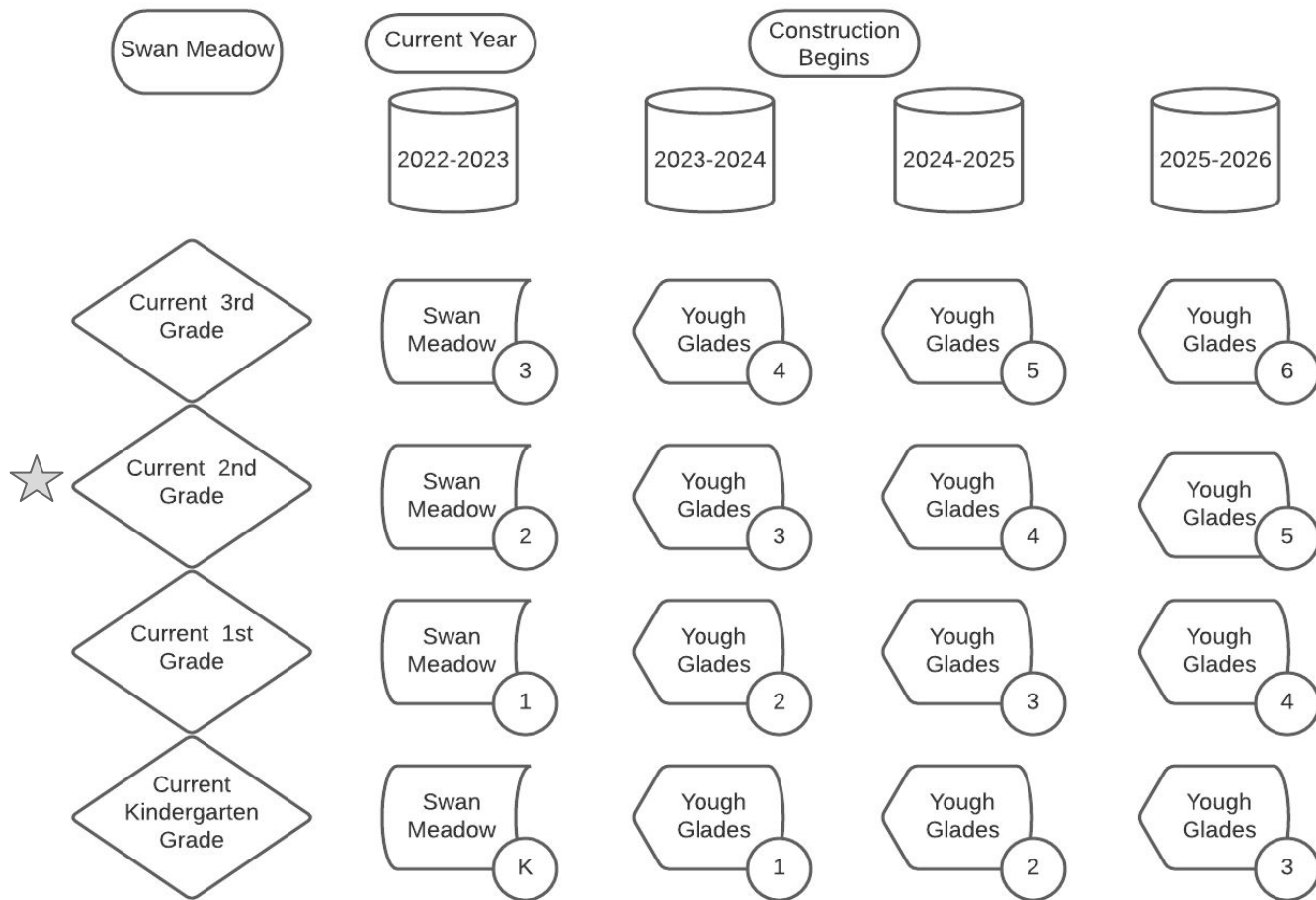
Community Impacts: Swan Meadow

- Swan Meadow students and staff have and currently are involved in many mission projects, reaching out to those not only in the community but around the world.
- Current substitute/ tutor, Abigail Yoder, traveled to Ukraine for a 6 week mission trip. During her time there, she held a zoom meeting with the students of a rural Ukrainian school and the students of Swan Meadow.
- Ukrainian students introduced themselves and shared about their school/culture and sang a traditional Ukrainian song for Swan Meadow students.
- Swan Meadow students then shared about the school and community we live in.
- This event provided a very eye opening experience for both schools. Swan Meadow students learned to think of needs beyond just themselves and the community. They experienced another culture and language with children their age. This opened students eyes to the trauma and devastation of war.



Impact: Southern Middle School

Impact: Southern Middle School



Impact: Yough Glades Elementary

Spacing:

- 19 possible incoming students from grades K-5 (for school year 2023-2024). Pre-K unknown. Upcoming 2nd grade will have the largest change with 6 new students attending Yough Glades.
- Projected Yough Glades classroom numbers for 2023:
 - PK- 34 (17 per class)
 - K- 48 (24 per class)
 - 1st- 50 (25 per class)
 - 2nd- 47 (23 per class)
 - 3rd- 44 (22 per class)
 - 4th- 54 (27 per class)
 - 5th- 40 (20 per class)

*Numbers provided by GCPS Enrollment Analysis

Impact: Yough Glades Elementary

Resources:

- Academic Intervention- An influx of new students may impact intervention numbers. Particularly Tier III pull out. Space in the pods is scarce and most pull out groups are at full capacity. Additional Intervention staff would be required to keep the groups at the recommended number of 5 students or less per session.

- **Current Tier III numbers for Swan Meadow:
Yough Glades:**

1st grade: 3 students

2nd grade: 1 student

3rd grade: 1 student

4th grade: 1 student

5th grade: 0 students

Current Tier III numbers for

1st grade: 12 students

2nd Grade: 14 students

3rd grade: 17 students

4th grade: 15 students

5th grade: 13 students

K-1-2 Student Interviews

Our favorite things about Swan Meadow

Abby K. - Learning and having fun. My teacher makes it fun. My teacher helps me be smart.

Aydan H. - I like to be here with my teacher and friends.

Remington S. - I like my teacher. She helps me learn things. She makes it fun.

Nikiah Y. - I learned to read at school. My teacher helped me. I can now read to my brother. We do fun trips.

Monica S. - I like numbers and math. It is fun to learn math at my school.

Bryson A. - My teacher helps me. If I need help I can tell her.

Kerria R. - My favorite thing is seeing my teacher. I love her. She teaches me lots of things. I really like the desert animals.

Ruth S. - I love seeing and playing with friends. My teacher fixes my boo boos. I love her.

Alex S. - I like doing reading groups. I like when my friends read to me. I like my teacher. I really like when she wears her fuzzy boots.

Student Interviews



Rachelle Swartzentruber

I love Swan Meadow school because we feel so united. I love the small classrooms and how we are put together. Swan Meadow school is my family. Together we reach out to the community on Valentines day and take love gifts to old people and people who have lost loved ones. These gifts are usually money, fruit baskets, and valentine's made by swan meadow school students in their extra time. The money and ^{the} money for the fruit come from money donated by the swan meadow school families and by the Harvest sale fund raiser for the school. Together we invite the community and have an auction with items donated from different families in the community. We do this because we care about our school.

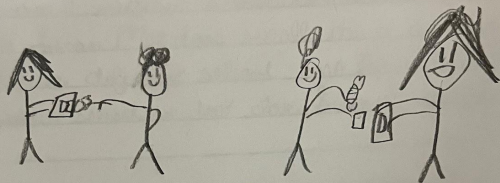


What I like about Swan Meadow School!!

Harmony owns
Feb 7, 2023
5th grade

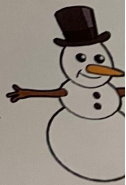
Swan Meadow school is amazing the teachers are nice and even though it's a small school doesn't mean that it's a bad school. Out of all of the schools I have been to this school is the only school that doesn't have violence and that doesn't have teachers that hit you and ~~blame~~ blame you something you didn't do. I love how the teachers take their time out of their lives to help me get a good grade when they could be at home baking cookies. Another thing I love about Swan Meadow school is which is the only school that is caring, sweet and kind all the time. I also like how on holidays the whole school gathers around and does something nice for us. I love how we get to do things for the community. Please keep Swan Meadow School open it's amazing.

Voting Day



It has good teachers, nice teachers. Nice friends. It's not too big or small. Big play ground. All the fun things they do. So please don't shut down my school.

From: Kinsley



10 things I love about Swan Meadow

The reason Swan Meadow is the best school ever is that even though Swan Meadow is small it's amazing! I have been in three different schools and Swan Meadow by far is my favorite school so don't close Swan Meadow.

Audrey A 5th grade

I love Swan Meadow in so many ways. The teachers are great. I love the littleness of the school and that you know everybody. I also love the idea of having 3 grades in one classroom. One of the best things about this school is the environment. I also love the little things we do for the community around us like the Harvest Sale and Love Gifts. How much the community is involved in this school is awesome.

Brooke 8

SOS (Save Our School)

By Kati Swartzentruber 2/8/23

We have to keep the school open! We love our school! We love it because of the people and the interaction with the community! Also the school is small, that way everyone gets noticed and cared about, not ignored. The people get to know each other since it's not a huge school. The school also does stuff with the community. Anyway, we love our school! Also the school has history. A lot of the people in the community went to this school when they were little, so this school means a lot to the community. So keep our school open. If we don't keep the school open, a lot of the kids won't have anywhere to go to school because they're not going to go to a big public school, so if you shut down the school then a lot of the kids will have to do homeschool. So please keep the school open!



Swan Meadow PTO Love Gifts for the Community



Summary: Focus on your rules & mission

GCPS Annotated Code of Maryland - Education 4-101 and 4-109: Garrett County Board of Education is responsible for maintaining a system of public schools that is designed to provide educational opportunities for **all children**.

"Our Vision" "The Garrett County Public School System **maintains** an environment in which staff, students, parents and the community work collectively for a brighter tomorrow. While celebrating the **culture and traditions** of Garrett County, the schools create an environment where students are nurtured to become productive, enthusiastic and successful members of society."

"Partnerships are integral to building a culture of rigorous, high-quality instruction in which excellence in student achievement is normative and ensures learning and success for all students. Community contributions are encouraged and valued. Partnerships support tangibly the innovation and creativity embedded in the school system and will energize the achievement of all students." (gcps.net/domain/21)

By closing Swan Meadow School; GCPS will deny the Amish/Mennonite community access to a free public education because of their family values and beliefs.

Finally

With so many unanswered questions and inconclusive information, it has been difficult to make an informed/definitive decision on Swan Meadow School closing.

The transparency we were promised has instead been mixed, delayed and partial communication.

Without accurate numbers to calculate funding, we have been unable to show a reasonably educated guess on the sustainability of Swan Meadow.

We can say with certainty that the GCPS system will lose an additional 35 students in the 2023-2024 school year, which will increase the deficit in funding, now and in the future for the school system as a whole.

Our children are our future and we are responsible to give them the best education possible. Please take that charge seriously and see the children individually and not as a dollar amount.

In Closing...

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.