

Principal's Corner – January 2019

Dear Parents and Friends of SHHS:

I hope everyone has a wonderful, restful holiday season. It is hard to imagine that we are almost halfway done with the school year. **Cheryl Bisson** has worked at SHHS as a paraprofessional for many years and has officially retired! We wish Mrs. Bisson many years of happiness and good health in her retirement. Congratulations! Athletic Trainer Alley Maynard Curley has taken another position out of state. She has supported countless athletes during her tenure here, and she will be sorely missed. We wish her the best of luck in her new endeavors! We also welcome Ms. McKenzie Saltmarsh as our newest paraprofessional. Welcome McKenzie.

A reminder that midterm exams are quickly approaching, which will be January 15-18. If your student is going to be absent for any reason, please let the office know ahead of time since unexcused absences will result in a zero for the exam grade. Remember, midterm exams count for 10% of a student's grade in a full year course and 20% in a semester course. Please encourage your students to take these seriously. Also, please help your students to establish proper study habits and encourage them to stay after for extra help when necessary. Seniors can leave after their midterm exam blocks, with permission slips and teachers' approval. All other students are expected to stay the entire day.

Our Winter Cotillion will be held at the Log Cabin on Saturday, January 26th. We will be holding an advisory assembly for any attendees and all upperclassmen addressing the negative effects of drugs and alcohol on our young adults. Since we check names at the door, tickets will not be issued. Please encourage your student to bring a couple of dollars to the Cotillion in order to tip the soda bartender and coat check person. We try to instill proper etiquette at every opportunity!

Class of 2019 will hold its graduation commencement on Friday, June 7th at 6pm. If weather permits, the ceremony will be outside at MHC's Amphitheater. If rain is on the horizon, the ceremony will be indoors at MHC's Chapin Hall that evening. There is no rain date.

Our goal is to help every student succeed academically, socially and emotionally. While there are specific programs to help struggling students, SHHS offers a variety of services that are available to all students. Regardless of academic level or grade, everyone can benefit from extra practice, individualized attention and support. One of the greatest ways to increase your student's skills and grades in a particular class is to use the teacher as a valuable resource. All of our teachers stay at least one day a week after school to help students who need extra assistance. In fact, most teachers spend several days after school, and many are here at school as early as 6:30 AM! All students will benefit from getting extra attention from their teacher. Please email your student's teacher and encourage your student to approach the teacher directly in order to self-advocate.

Also, students are expected to complete community service hours as part of their membership in the National Honor Society. Tutoring their peers has been one of the most productive forms of this service. The benefit of receiving tutoring from a fellow student is that often the tutor knows the teacher or the assignment that the student is working on, and is able to give targeted feedback based on their experience here in the high school. Interested students should contact their guidance counselors for more information.

The New Year also brings Bag the Community food drive, which will be January 19th and 21st. It is an important way that we demonstrate and promote civic and community responsibility to our students. Please encourage your students to bring in canned goods to help out local families in need. Don't forget to check your expiration dates! Students are asked to bring in nonperishable food & canned goods. Students who have excessive absences and tardies may have credits reinstated by volunteering at Bag the Community and submitting "tardy forgiveness slips" to administration. While we cannot erase absences and tardies, we can be lenient in regards to the attendance policy for those students that volunteer at Bag the Community. While I will be reaching out to students who fall into this category, any interested students should see me as soon as possible.

We are quite short staffed in terms of substitute teachers. If you are looking for a part time job with flexible hours, look no further. Please contact the Superintendent's office for an application. While a college degree is preferred, it is not required.

Congratulations to those who made Honor Roll for first marking period and were not recognized in our last newsletter. High Honors – Anna O'Brien. Honors – Tessa Berard, Caitlin Nason & Samantha Racine.

Congratulations to our latest Students of the Month! All students who earn "Student Commendations for Excellence" are considered for this monthly drawing. We encourage all of our students to perform positive, helpful and kind acts, as well as demonstrate improvement or leadership in class.

January Students of the Month:

Gr 9: Aurelie Beatty Bruno

Gr 10: Nick Vallerie

Gr 11: Zach Scott

Gr 12: Mariela Moreno-Saravia

Congratulations to our January honorary teacher of the month, **Bob Smith**, who runs our studio production center!

Respectfully,

Dr. Diana Bonneville
Principal