

Principal's Corner – March 2019
Dear Parents and Friends of SHHS:

We are at the midway point in the third marking period, and SHHS is hopping with activity! Western Massachusetts tournaments, field trips, AP mock exams, Special Olympics, MCAS retests and numerous community service projects have kept our students busy. Midterm progress reports will be distributed March 6th. Parents are encouraged to monitor their students' progress on PowerSchool, which can be accessed through the high school's website.

MCAS is right around the corner and this is the first year that it is online. English Language Arts testing will occur March 26-29 with half the 10th graders testing the first two days, and the other half the last two days. This year the test is shorter, and there is not a separate composition component. Students are taking practice online tests with their English and math classes in order for them to be comfortable with the new format.

Please ensure that your student gets plenty of sleep the night before testing and is on time to school. This is the fifth year that the district will be providing a free MCAS breakfast in the cafeteria to test takers. Thank you, Matt Hoagland and your staff! Although high school students aren't the best breakfast eaters, it is a vital meal of the day and a great way to get the day in motion! We encourage students to be thoughtful and take as much time as they need because this is an untimed test. The state allows students to test until the end of the school day (2pm), therefore it is critical for students to be on time to school. MCAS is a graduation requirement and we'd love for every student to pass on the first try!

As you know, we have a double locked entryway into the building, which was installed two years ago. Visitors must be buzzed into the building once identified by office staff. Once through the first set of doors, visitors must state their business to the administrative assistants, who are behind a bullet-proof glass window. Parents who wish to drop off items for their students must do so through the glass window, which is very similar to a bank drive up window. Those that have scheduled appointments must remain in the foyer until a staff member comes and escorts them to their destination. If there is ever any doubt or someone looks suspicious, Officer Fleming or administration, determine entry. All classroom doors are always in locked position. We routinely practice lockdown drills with the assistance of local and state police. A blue light has been installed near the peak of the main office entryway to notify outsiders that we are in a lockdown. Students know to drive away immediately. Room numbers are identified in classroom windows in case police need to know which classroom is where. We have a school and district crisis team that meet regularly to practice scenarios, discuss issues and brainstorm strategies for improvement. It's unfortunate that students and faculty have to be trained in such matters, but we take school safety very seriously.

Students of the Month are:
Grade 9: Tyrone Irwin
Grade 10: Cam Pete
Grade 11: Emily Couture
Grade 12: Jaycey Rondeau

Congratulations to Erin Gomes (Special Education teacher), our Faculty of the Month winner!

Respectfully,
Dr. Diana Bonneville
Principal