

***-Principal's Corner –May 2019**

Dear Parents and Friends of SHHS:

The weeks are passing by too quickly! The high school is buzzing with activity- sporting competitions, play rehearsals, fundraisers, field trips near and far, testing, and more. While these activities are important in students' lives, our academic focus cannot be overlooked. Five students have met the requirements to enter the **2018 National Merit Scholarship Program**, having shown outstanding academic potential. From approximately 1.5 million program entrants, each of these students is among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants who will be recognized this fall. From the 50,000 high scorers nationwide, 16,000 will be named National Merit Program Semifinalists, representing the top scorers in each state, and approximately 34,000 others will be commended for their performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, and will be notified in the Fall. We are so proud of **Olivia Geitz, Lily Liebowitz, Emma Manzi, Moira McDermott and Rainy Wortelboer**, who will receive recognition in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship program. Being recognized is rare and wonderful!

It's time to start planning for next year and transitioning 8th graders to SHHS. We will be hosting an **Incoming 9th grade Student and Parent Orientation on June 10th at 6pm** in the auditorium. We'd like to give a brief overview of SHHS, give tours, and have 9th grade teachers and students explain their expectations and perspectives of the high school. All are welcome to attend, and students are strongly encouraged to attend. We will be having Step Up Day on June 11th for incoming freshmen.

The budget shortfall for FY20 has left students asking what they can do to help. The South Hadley School Committee has publicly endorsed **The PROMISE Act**, a legislative bill to reformulate increased state resources to public education. The House Ways and Means and the Senate Ways and Means Committees are currently writing the budget and deciding on Chapter 70 funding levels for FY20. Governor Baker has proposed a \$200 million increase in Chapter 70 funding, however, the PROMISE Act advocates are asking for a \$300 million increase over last year's levels. If you would like to show your support for The PROMISE Act, you are encouraged to email the following:

House Ways and Means Chair-Aaron.M.Michlewitz@mahouse.gov
Senate Ways and Means Chair-Michael.Rodrigues@masenate.gov
Senate Joint Committee on Education Chair-Jason.Lewis@masenate.gov
House Joint Committee on Education Chair-Alice.Peisch@mahouse.gov
Senator Joanne Comerford- Jo.Comerford@masenate.gov
Representative Daniel Carey daniel.carey@mahouse.gov

What happens when someone is Student or Teacher of the Month? Their names appear on the board outside the school. The teacher receives accolades from his/her peers, a special parking spot for the month, and is presented with Gertie the Goose. Gertie is a wooden goose that the recipient decorates and proudly displays in his/her classroom. Her attire is quite colorful these days- she has a sombrero, safety goggles, evening purse, boa, and a variety of plastic bracelets around her neck. Gertie the Goose also stands for "Get Out Of School Early". The Teacher of the Month can leave early one day and I will substitute teach his/her afternoon classes, although few take me up on this offer. Students receive a free Bistro punch coupon and their picture is placed on our bulletin board in the hallway by the main office. The senior recipient gets a special parking spot in the student lot.

Congratulations to our Students of the Month recipients:

Grade 9: Aileen McAllister
Grade 10: Jermaine JR Mitchell
Grade 11: Naomi Grace-Decker
Grade 12: Bryan Wolf

Congratulations to our Staff of the Month:

Robert Stackow

Senior Reminder: You should have received a form which highlights what you will need to pay for your senior dues. This includes a charge for your cap and gown and the option for 'senior field day'. The Class of 2019 is paying for both senior breakfast and senior banquet so those are free. Your senior dues will be due in the form of check made payable to SHHS by April 24th.

Senior Office Obligations are due by May 31st. This includes class Text Books, English reading books, gym locks etc. All athletic fees need to be paid through the Athletic Dept. All Lunch payments need to be paid directly to the kitchen. No report card or cap and gown will be issued to a student who has not paid off their financial obligations.

Junior / Senior Prom

Prom will be a sit down meal at the Delaney House in Holyoke on Saturday, May 18th, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00. Students must be present for school on Friday, May 17th in order to attend the prom.

Senior Final Exam Schedule

All final exams will be held in the cafeterias with the exception of specialized courses taken in assigned areas. Following the exams, seniors are asked to leave the building and grounds immediately.

Fri-5/24 Last full day of Classes

Tues – 5/28 A-block 7:30 – 8:55
 B-block 9:05 –10:30

Wed – 5/29 C-block 7:30 – 8:55
 D-block 9:05 10:30

Thur – 5/30 E-block 7:30 – 8:55
 F-block 9:05 –10:30

Fri – 5/31 G-block 7:30 – 8:55

Make-Up 9:05 – 10:30

All students taking a make-up exam must have prior approval from the principal.

Graduation Date

Our graduation plans will be for **FRIDAY, June 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.** The ceremony will be outside in the Gettell Amphitheater at Mt. Holyoke College. Should there be inclement weather, we will be moved indoors to Chapin Hall. Tickets are not required to attend the outdoor graduation ceremony and it is open to the public. Tickets will be distributed if graduation needs to be indoors as space is limited inside Chapin Hall so we do not exceed the capacity of the venue. Students will receive these tickets at their morning rehearsal on Friday, June 7th.

Dress Code Reminder

Also, please remind your students to dress appropriately for school, as the warmer weather approaches. Revealing outfits and short shorts are distracting and inappropriate for the learning environment. Visible undergarments and bare midriffs are also prohibited, as are garments promoting drugs, alcohol or cigarettes. While it can be challenging to find shorts that are appropriate lengths for school, students need to know that beach attire and school attire should differ. Although we recognize that this is an ongoing battle with many teens, we will continue to do our best to enforce appropriate attire.

Respectfully,
Dr. Diana Bonneville
Principal