

## **Principal's Corner –June/July 2020**

### **Dear Parents and Friends of SHHS:**

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to all of the students, parents, faculty, and staff that have made this school year so successful! There have certainly been challenges. We have learned to navigate distance learning, social distancing, and a national pandemic. We have stuck with it together, supporting each other, and relying on our community during this difficult time. It is an honor to work with such caring families and dedicated staff. Thank you for helping to make my first year memorable!

As we look towards next year, I would like for Parents and Guardians to know that we have openings on the School Council! This is a group of Staff, Students and Guardians, that meet quarterly to discuss governing policies of SHHS. If you are interested in joining this group, please email me at [ewood@shschools.com](mailto:ewood@shschools.com).

One of the many changes this year has brought is the recognition ceremony for the class of 2020. This year, we will be celebrating our Graduates at SHHS's lower field on August 7<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of August 8<sup>th</sup>. All graduates and attendees must pre-register to attend the ceremony. Each graduate will be allowed three tickets and guests must be limited to immediate family only. All guests must wear a mask and be checked in at the gate. We will begin seating guests at 5:00 and the ceremony will start at 6:00 p.m. Please refer to the Graduation Guidelines posted on SHHS Learning Portal, and email or call with any questions.

Student Schedules will be sent electronically in the early weeks of June. All documents associated to schedules will be made available as well. As a reminder course level appeals are due June 26<sup>th</sup> with decisions being made by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Over the summer, the main office will have limited summer hours. Students needing work permits should go to the Superintendent's office in Town Hall.

June Staff of the Month: Patrick Lemieux

June Students of the Month, who are recognized for their accomplishments in May:

Grade 9: Jessica Sabourin

Grade 10: James Ross

Grade 11: Colin Foley

Grade 12: Haley Dusseault

### **Rainy Wortelboer Valedictorian**

Rainy Wortelboer is the daughter of Thomas and Fuyan Wortelboer. A National Merit Scholar winner, Rainy is a stellar student who exhibits a combination of character, community engagement, and academic ability that made her a standout in the halls of South Hadley High School. In the fall, Rainy will attend Brown University as a Biochemistry major where she has been accepted to the highly selective Program in Liberal Medical Education, or PLME, which is an eight-year combined baccalaureate-M.D. medical program. Her academic prowess has been evident throughout high school and across the curriculum as she has taken the most advanced courses available to her in all academic subjects. Rainy's exceptional character and academic achievements have been continually recognized as she was selected by the faculty to be the recipient of the Harvard Book Award, the Principal Award for Academic Excellence, AP Chemistry Award, Magna Cum Laude Latin Award, and the list goes on! What really differentiates Rainy is the breadth and depth of her activities and her drive to pursue her intellectual curiosity. She is a talented pianist and founder and president of the Debate Team. One of her more impressive civic engagements was knowing that there is a real need to help students not only understand but enjoy math. Rainy single-handedly developed a math tutoring program at the South Hadley Public Library which provides free math tutoring to children grades K-12 (she has data to show the impressive improvements in students' math grades). She also created her own YouTube channel to provide an easy way for people to understand converting numbers from one base to another. This video caught the attention of mathematician and educator James Tanton who features the video on his mathematics website. In terms of pursuing her intellectual curiosity she has had two tremendous internship experiences at both Mount Holyoke College's Carr Laboratory and at UMASS-Amherst as a Chemical Engineering Lab Assistant. There is no doubt that Rainy will continue to make her mark making South Hadley proud in the process. Good luck Rainy-- Brown is lucky to have you!

### **Moira McDermott Valedictorian**

Moira McDermott is the daughter of Todd and Karyn McDermott. Moira is an outstanding member of the South Hadley High School community who exhibits integrity, intelligence, and dedication in everything that she sets forth to accomplish. In the fall, Moira will attend Boston College where she will study mathematics. A National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist and this year's Association of School Superintendents Award for Academic and Community Excellence winner, Moira has certainly made her mark in our school and community. Time and again, Moira has been selected by our faculty to win academic awards such as the AP Chemistry Award and the AP Calculus BC Award. She was selected by a faculty committee to receive the Dartmouth Book Award for not only her academic achievement, but also her civic engagement and community service. A small sampling of her activities includes National Honors Society, Culture Club, Leo Club, and Math Team. She tutors students in mathematics at the

high school and is a volunteer at Homework House in Holyoke where she has spent countless hours helping elementary school students in Holyoke--an experience she has found to be highly rewarding and fulfilling. If all of that were not enough, Moira plays

varsity soccer and is on the varsity swim team-- all while she works part time at a local restaurant. With all of her activities and commitments, it is remarkable that Moira has studied the most rigorous curriculum available to her by taking eleven Advanced Placement courses; having exhausted the mathematics curriculum here at the high school, she took Calculus III at Mount Holyoke College. There is no doubt that Moira will continue to shine and make South Hadley proud! Good luck Moira - BC will be proud to count you amongst their very best!

### **Max Garvin Salutatorian**

Max Garvin is the son of Kevin Garvin and Colleen Cavanaugh-Garvin. As Salutatorian, Max has been an outstanding member of both our academic and athletic communities at SHHS.

Throughout his high school career Max has consistently demonstrated a mastery of academic material across all content areas and is highly regarded by both his peers and teachers alike. As much as Max relishes intellectually engaging coursework for his own growth, he equally values the opportunities these courses offer for collaboration and problems solving opportunities. Max's inquisitive nature, dedication to his studies and love for learning has garnered recognition in multiple settings, including the Brown Book award, the AP Scholar with Distinction award, membership in the National Honor Society, and the Spanish NHS.

As with his academics, Max pours his all into his extracurricular activities. Max has served as the Captain of the SHHS football team and has been a member of our baseball team throughout his high school years. He credits his relationships with coaches and teammates with developing his strong work ethic and perseverance. Max's academic capabilities, combined with his achievements on the football field have earned him the Archie Roberts award recipient as the top scholar-athlete competitor in Western Massachusetts football.

In the fall, Max will take his considerable talents to the University of Virginia where he plans to major in Business. Congratulations on all of your accomplishments, Max, and good luck in all of your future endeavors!

### **Summer Reading** **One School, One Theme**

For this year's summer reading, each student will read and annotate a book or books that discusses a character or group of characters who face a struggle. You may choose one on your own, or you may choose from our list of suggested titles which can be found on the SHHS Library website.

**Integrated and CP students should read one book.**

**Honors students should read two books.**

**AP students will have different assignments sent to them via email from their teacher.**

### **While Reading Over the Summer**

You must annotate and take notes on the book(s) in whatever format you choose. To get started, you should check out the SHHS library website for suggestions on how to annotate.

Some things to take note of might include themes, passages that stand out to you (for whatever reason) and connections you personally make to the text.

### **Upon Returning to School (Subject to change based on what happens in the fall)**

- Your annotations and notes, in whatever format you choose, **will be collected on the first day of class and graded** for thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and accuracy. This grade will appear in the practice category on PowerSchool.
- You will write an **in-class essay** based on a prompt given to you by your teacher. You will be able to use your annotations.

### **For more information/questions**

If you will be having difficulty obtaining a book or for any other questions, please contact English Department Chair Tina Lesniak at [tlesniak@shschools.com](mailto:tlesniak@shschools.com). This email will be checked weekly throughout the summer.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **9<sup>th</sup> grade Orientation**

On Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. we will hold our annual Parent Orientation for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders. This will be done through 'Google Hang Outs'. A link had been previously emailed to all parents on our distribution list. Please let me know if you need an additional copy of the link. On June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 we will host a Q&A session with current High School students answering all of the

incoming students' questions. All of our incoming ninth graders are invited to attend this virtual event. A link for this has also been previously sent.

We understand how difficult this transition typically is, and the uncertainty of what the 20-21 school year could look like may be adding to feelings of uneasiness. We want to remind you that we are here to support our students as they get ready for this next step in their education. Research indicates that the first year of high school is perhaps the most critical year in a student's K-12 educational experience. We are committed to assisting all ninth graders succeed in their first year of high school and beyond.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Wood  
Principal

\* \* \* \* \*

### Guidance News

**SENIORS:** Graduating seniors' final transcripts will be sent out 2 weeks after June 5th. There is no need to contact guidance as we will use the college listed on their exit survey to send these out.

### **AP Classes 2020-2021**

If your student has signed up for any AP classes for next year, they must complete an AP Contract which must be signed by you and the student showing you understand the requirements of taking an AP class. All students must take the AP exam for each class they enroll in and pay the fee as designated by College Board before school begins. ***Any students who do not submit a signed contract and payment before August 28, 2020 will have their schedule changed to reflect dropping the AP class.*** All summer AP work will be sent via email directly to students. Books can be picked up by appointment only.

\* \* \* \* \*

### 2019 Underclass

#### Reminder that there are no traditional Final Exams Scheduled, only Final Meeting Periods.

Final Exams will not be taking place this year. In their place, each class will have one final distance learning session to finish any final assignments, turn in any missing work, and finalize grades. Each teacher will send out instructions for their final meeting in advance. If you have any questions or concerns, please be sure to reach out to you teacher in advance and the final meeting date.

Friday, June 12, 2020: Foreign Language, Arts, and PE classes  
Monday, June 15, 2020: English classes  
Tuesday, June 16, 2020: Math classes  
Wednesday, June 17, 2020: Science classes  
Thursday, June 18, 2020: History classes

### THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS JUNE 18

\* \* \* \* \*

### Summer School Program

The South Hadley High School offers summer school courses through the **Edgenuity online platform**. Students, who are taking an online course for a passing grade for a graduation requirement, must sign up in advance.

Due to the Covid19 extenuating circumstances, this year's summer school courses are free. Normally fees are \$200 per course or \$100 for free/reduced lunch status. Credit will be granted upon completion of a passed course.

These courses will be entirely online and self-paced through the online platform. The portal will open to begin work on Monday, July 6, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. and the deadline for completing work is Friday August 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. Grades will be recorded as of this time and credit will be awarded for completed courses with passing grades (60 and above).

The summer school director will be available by appointment on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for any students who have questions or need assistance.

