

**Principal's Corner – Aug/Sept 2023**  
**Dear Caregivers and Friends of SHHS:**

Welcome back, everyone! We've been busy here at SHHS working to make sure the building is ready to receive students on 8/31/2023. Despite the many challenges that have faced us in education today, I have no doubt that this is going to be another amazing year. The support and guidance of the team that we have here at SHHS can problem solve and overcome any obstacle 2023-2024 can throw at us!

I would like to welcome several new team members to SHHS: Kelly Gearin (PE/Health), David Brueshaber (Carpentry), Charlie Allard (Special Education), Support Staff: Chris Mongeau, Erin Ferry, Cassidy Sheltra, Amber Chaffee, Katie Dixie, Jordan Viens, Kiaralys Santiago, Julia Mantillo and Ada Sanchez-Fernandez, and Meghan Aucoin (ETL).

**Bus Passes for SHHS:** Transportation is provided for a fee to the following students:

- High School students \$180 per year
- Private or Vocational School students \$180 per year (this includes transportation to and from CTEC)

For those who have registered and paid for transportation, your bus passes will be available in the main office for the first two weeks of school. For those who still owe fees, an invoice will be mailed to you. Any questions regarding bus transportation for your child for the 2023-2024 school year, please email Matt Hoagland at [Mhoagland@shschools.com](mailto:Mhoagland@shschools.com).

**Student Parking:** The lower lot requires students have their parking tag displayed at all times. The Lincoln St. lot is first come first served with no pass required.

**Student Picture Day is 9/1/2023.** Picture forms will be available at all lunches. All staff and students will be required to have a picture taken even if a package will not be purchased. For the 23-24 academic year, all visitors who enter SHHS will be required to wear an ID or visitors badge at all times.

**We are still looking for School Council Members!** A school council is a representative, school building-based committee composed of the principal, parents, teachers, community members and, at the secondary level, students, required to be established by each school pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 71, Section 59C. SHHS is currently looking for new members for the 23-24 school year. The task of the council is to:

- o Adopt educational goals for the school that are consistent with local educational policies and statewide student performance standards
- o Identify the educational needs of students attending the school
- o Review the annual school building budget
- o Formulate a school improvement plan

All School Council members are appointed for a one-year term. Meetings are held every other month on the third Thursday from 2:45-3:35. If you are interested in serving please email me at [ewood@shschools.com](mailto:ewood@shschools.com)

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out! Most importantly rest and recharge! We will be back in session soon and remain dedicated to the highest level of education and safety!

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**Contacting Us**

Enclosed in this newsletter is a list of staff members with their school e-mail addresses. We encourage you to keep this list handy so you can contact us with any questions you may have.

[ewood@shschools.com](mailto:ewood@shschools.com)  
538-5063 ext. 3701

Best wishes for a successful 2023-2024 school year!

*SHHS remains committed to maintaining a safe place for our staff and students. As we continue to find ourselves in unprecedented times, it is more important than ever to hold a safe place for difficult conversations. Our words are powerful and have the ability to cause harm that may not be visible on the surface but have lasting effects on our school community. It is beyond necessary to create an environment that listens, supports, and validates each of our diverse identities. We recognize that we are all on a journey of education. I feel fortunate to have the ability to be a listening ear, but also provide our students with learning opportunities and teachable moments that will allow them to become proactive members of our community. Please know that if you find yourself in need of additional support, we are here.*

*Everyone is welcome at South Hadley High School. Together, we can build an inclusive school that encourages, supports, and celebrates the diverse voices of all.*

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Wood  
Principal

