



# S.H.S. highlights

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<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/springfield/>

## Happy New Year from the Parent-Teacher Organization!

I hope the new semester is off to a good start for all parents, students and teachers. This semester is bitter sweet for my family as it is our daughter's final semester at Springfield High School.

During Spring Semester, the PTO hosts a number of important recognition events for SHS students. The success of these events turns on the generosity of parent volunteers so whether you are a member of the PTO or not, we could use your help. I've indicated below the Class of the parents who usually help but any parent help at any event would be much appreciated.

- The Honor Roll Breakfast: February 8. As its name suggests, this breakfast honors all SHS students who achieved the Honor Roll in either or both first and second quarter. For the volunteers who staff the event, it is a wonderful chance to congratulate the students on their academic accomplishment. (Usually staffed by parents of Freshman class members).
- The National Honor Society's Induction Reception: February 23. This hour-long evening reception honors all those Juniors who, by virtue of their academic performance and volunteer service, have been selected to the SHS chapter of the National Honor Society. (Usually staffed by parents of Sophomore class members – also a great chance for Sophomore students to attend the ceremony, learn what NHS is all about and volunteer at the Reception)

- The Prairie State Achievement Exam: April 27 & 28. All Juniors take the Prairie State Achievement Exam over these two days. For the past few years, the PTO has provided "Brain Food" breakfasts before the tests and during breaks. The kids really appreciate the food and gathering with their fellow classmates and encouraging parents right before the exams seems to calm nerves and power up minds. (Junior parents handle this one).
- Senior Recognition Night Reception: May 19. Senior Recognition Night is a wonderful event that recognizes the diverse accomplishments of members of the Senior Class. Parents of Juniors, Sophomores and Freshman host the reception that follows. (This is another event where you might want to bring younger students just so they can see the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel" and witness the kinds of accomplishments that SHS celebrates).

Again, you don't need to be a member of PTO to help out. We need a number of volunteers to staff these events. Additionally, parents bake or bring cookies, cupcakes, brownies and the like for the Senior Recognition Night Reception. If you are not a baker and volunteering is difficult, perhaps you will consider a small cash donation to help underwrite the PTO's cost. At the Honor Roll Breakfast in particular, the PTO traditionally raffles off dozens of gift cards in small denominations funded by parents' generosity.

If you would like to volunteer to help with any of the above events, please email me at [patreyh@gmail.com](mailto:patreyh@gmail.com) and I will forward your name to the PTO coordinator for that event. If you are able to donate toward raffle gifts, please send either gift cards (Panera, Starbucks, Taco Bell, McDonalds, Sonic and Best Buy are student favorites) or a check (and we will buy the cards) to Springfield High School, 101 S. Lewis 62704: Attention PTO.

Finally, let me mention three more volunteer opportunities for parents:

- In conjunction with the School's efforts, the PTO is working to provide tutoring for students by parents and grandparents interested in providing academic help. Jim Bremhorst is the PTO pointperson on this and he can be reached at [jimbremhorst@yahoo.com](mailto:jimbremhorst@yahoo.com). This does not have to be an enormous time commitment on your part but your talents are deeply needed.
- Are you a closet archivist? Springfield High is looking for parent volunteers to help archive some of the historical records of the school. Sound interesting? Please email me (again, [patreyh@gmail.com](mailto:patreyh@gmail.com)) if you'd like to get your hands dusty!
- Finally, we will be sponsoring some teacher appreciation events so let me know if this of interest to you.

Thanks in advance for your help. Please consider attending one of our meetings (4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Library). You will learn a lot about goings on at the School and have a chance to raise any issues of concern to you.

Go Senators!

Pat Reyhan, PTO President

### **BOOSTER CLUB NEWS**

#### **Red and Black Senator Gala – Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

Please plan on attending the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Gala fundraiser along with friends, family and alumni of Springfield High School. We will be returning to the Prairie Capitol Convention Center for an event that is sure to raise both pride and funds for the Springfield High Booster Club. The Booster Club supports over 30 teams, organizations and clubs at SHS, with over half the funding coming from the Gala. So please mark your calendar and join us for an evening of good food, unique auction items, wonderful entertainment and Senator camaraderie!

Anyone interested in making a donation of merchandise or services or who would like to volunteer to help make this event a huge success, please contact Keith Sias (341-5855 or [keithsias@aol.com](mailto:keithsias@aol.com)), Amy Ridley (416-2300 or [markandamyridley@comcast.net](mailto:markandamyridley@comcast.net)), or Cara or Mark

Vasconcelles (698-5077 or email to [vasconcelles1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vasconcelles1@sbcglobal.net)).

#### **Beat Back the Winter Blues**

Saturday, February 5, 2011 – Dress in your finest Cowboy attire and join us for an evening of fun and excitement as we celebrate with fruit smoothies, exciting pom pom routines and victory over Lincoln High School.

**Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser** – During the month of March eat at Texas Roadhouse any Wednesday and 10% of your food bill will be donated to the Booster Club. Several exciting events will be taking place during the month; so please stay tuned for further details.

**Volunteers** – we are always looking for volunteers to help sell 50/50 tickets and concessions at home basketball games for both the boys' and girls' teams. It's a great way to not only help the school but to also met new friends.

Please contact David Parker if you're interested in volunteering. David's phone is 725-1249 or [dparker@mnlpltd.com](mailto:dparker@mnlpltd.com). Thanks in advance for your support.

The Booster club also thanks all those members who have already volunteered or contributed to the Booster club and extend a heartfelt thanks for all of those who will be helping out in the future. Remember, it is never too late to become a member or a volunteer of the Booster Club  
**Go Senators!**

#### **Trivia Night – TBD April, 2011**

Thanks again to all of you who have helped to make the SHS Booster Club a huge success by joining and volunteering to help with concessions during the fall. Looking forward to working with you during our winter events.

#### **Special Notice to the Parents of Special Needs Students**

In the spring of each year, any student who is eligible for special education services is scheduled for an annual review to discuss current academic performance, progress toward goals, and future program plans. You will be receiving an invitation by mail in the near future informing you of the date and time of your student's Individualize Education Program (IEP) meeting. They will be scheduled from February through May.

If you have had a recent change of address, please contact Ms. Shari Troike at Springfield High School at 525-3109 ext. 185. Special Education and Student Support is located in Room 169.

## GUIDANCE NEWS

### NEW OFFICES – MRS. POVSE AND MR. CRUM

New offices have been built on the first floor between the stairwells. Students and parents can find Mr. Crum on the north end of the hall and Mrs. Povse on the south end. Hopefully the new space will allow for better guidance service to our students and our families.

### Welcome to Mr. Craig Norman

We wish to welcome Mr. Craig Norman to the SHS staff. Mr. Norman is an administrative intern who will work primarily with students that have IEPs and seniors. Mr. Norman has an extensive background in high school alternative education. His office in Room 104.

### Registration for 2011-2012

Preview Night was held January 24. At that time Assistant Principals and teachers shared course requirements, expectations for various levels of instruction, and course sequences with current eighth grade students.

Assistant Principals have begun visiting English classes to initiate the registration process. Students should bring home the registration forms for parent approval and a parent signature. Please make an appointment with your child's Assistant Principal if you would like to discuss course planning, graduation requirements, or college admissions requirements...Hawk Academy (A-E), Mr. Williams; Eagle Academy (F-K), Mrs. Lamsargis; Phoenix Academy (L-R), Mr. Schurman; and Raven Academy (S-Z), Mrs. Usinger. Call 525-3106 to make an appointment.

### Prairie State Achievement Exams

The two-day statewide test will be administered to all **juniors** on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Students will receive preparation for the exam in English and U.S. History classes. Please mark your calendar if you have a junior. This exam is extremely important. Any student who misses the exam will be required to make up the exam in May.

### Explore and PLAN Tests

Freshmen and sophomores will take the Explore test (freshmen) and PLAN test (sophomores) on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Testing will be concurrent with the PSAE exam for juniors. Explore and PLAN are both preACT tests and extremely important for a student's course planning. The scores on these exams inform administrators, students and parents with regard to the student's

academic progress toward college readiness. Students will also take the WorkKeys practice exams on these dates. Developed by the ACT, WorkKeys is an employment-related assessment that tells the student and his/her family if the young person is on track for career readiness after high school. Please see that your child is at school on these days, well rested, and ready to perform at the highest levels.

### AP Registrations

AP exams will be administered during the first two weeks of May. Students may register for the test in March in the Guidance office.

Questions concerning AP exams should be directed to Mr. Crum in the Guidance Office at 525-3106.

### ACT and SAT Exam Dates

College-bound juniors and seniors should take either the ACT or SAT I college entrance tests. All juniors will take the ACT on the first day of the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE), April 27<sup>th</sup>. If your junior student wishes to take the exam on a national test date, or if your senior wishes to retake it, these are the remaining test dates and registration deadlines.

<b>ACT Test Date</b>	<b>Reg. Deadline</b>
February 12, 2011	Passed
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011

<b>SAT Test Date</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
Jan 22	passed	Standby Testing
Mar 12	Feb 11	Register Now
May 7	Apr 8	Register Now
June 4	May 6	Register Now

Registration packets may be picked up in the guidance office, or you may register online at [act.org](http://act.org).

Preparing for the college entrance exams may be done in a variety of ways.

The ACT.org and Collegeboard.com web sites have test preparation links. Mr. Crum can arrange passwords for these practice sites.

During the months prior to the PSAE, junior core teachers will do planned test preparation activities each week.

### SAVE THE DATE

A FAFSA workshop will be held Wed., January 26 at 6:00 pm at Robert Morris University, 3101 Montvale

Drive. The presentation will walk parents through the on-line FASA. Please RSVP at [enroll@robertmorris.edu](mailto:enroll@robertmorris.edu). An additional FASA workshop will be held on February 21 at 6:00 pm at Lincoln Library, downtown. Call to reserve a seat at 753-4900, Ext. 213.

### **College Campus Tours**

Visiting a college campus might be the first step in deciding that a student wants to continue his/her education. We want 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to have the opportunity to tour a college campus and to listen to admissions staff discuss requirements for entrance.

The following college campus tours have been arranged for juniors and seniors.

Jan. 27 – MacMurray & Illinois College, Jacksonville  
Feb. 3 – Illinois State University, Normal  
March 24 - Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

These trips will be by school bus. Most will leave at 8:30 am and return before the end of the regular school day. Many schools are providing a free lunch. Permission slips for the trips are available from Mrs. Povse. Additional trips may be planned. Mrs. Povse is accepting suggestions for additional schools.

<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/springfield/>

Visit the SHS web site to keep up with the latest school information. Test dates, test prep links, scholarship information, dates for visiting college representatives, financial aid and many more guidance topics can be found there.

Teachers' email addresses may also be found on the web site. Email is a great communication tool for teachers and parents. You can email the teacher with a question or concern and the teacher can respond quickly and succinctly. Neither party needs to spend a great deal of time and the information can be shared. There's never a busy signal or an answering machine!

### **MAILING OF THE SENATOR**

Family subscribers to The Senator should have received all back issues by mail by the end of January. The first mailing is delayed each year because of the timetable for billing and processing of student fees at the district level.

### **Attendance Reminder**

The Assistant Principals are responsible for tracking your child's daily attendance. You have 48 hours to call the Student Services Office, 525-3111, to clear the absence. If you do not call, your child is subject to progressive consequences including detention, Saturday detention, and in-house suspension. Please call in a timely manner.

### **Important Information for College-Bound Seniors**

Any **scholarship** information that comes into the Guidance Office is posted on the daily announcements and on the scholarship link on the school web site. Students are responsible for contacting Mr. Crum or Mrs. Povse, Post Secondary Coach if they want more information and/or an application. Some scholarships available at individual colleges and universities do not come to the school. Seniors should contact the Financial Aid Offices of those schools they are most interested in to find out what is available.

**Financial Aid** – Before beginning a FAFSA the student and parent(s) must apply for a PIN number. Go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) to apply. It is very important to complete the FAFSA in order to receive any type of financial aid. This should be done as soon as the family's income taxes are finished. Some schools have priority deadlines so it is best to have the taxes done ASAP and then immediately get the FAFSA completed on line. If you have difficulty completing the form, there are some resources for help. Mr. Crum or Mrs. Povse can direct you toward these resources.

It is very important that seniors maintain grades at a high level during second semester and do not try to reduce their schedules to have an EASY last semester. Students will have to have a final transcript sent after graduation to the college or university of the student's choice. Those schools can still deny a student if they see that the student's credentials decreased during the last semester.

### **Attention Senior Parents:**

Seniors are requested to indicate schools to which they have been accepted and their final choice on the maps in the Guidance Office. It is fun to see where all our students go. At the same time or at a later date, the students must bring to us an addressed and stamped envelope with the student's name written on the inside flap so that we can send the final transcript after graduation. This is an absolute necessity. Most schools require that they receive this before a student can begin classes. **We do not send a final transcript unless this envelope is brought to us, indicating the request for the transcript to be sent.**

The Guidance Office personnel have sent over 600 transcripts since August for the Class of 2010. Almost all of these have been sent with college or scholarship applications. We are proud that so many of our students are seeking post-secondary education. We appreciate that students have adhered to deadlines and have been timely in getting their applications in so that we have had sufficient time to meet deadlines. Please continue to do so during this last semester.

### **Collaboration Teams**

Teachers meet daily in collaboration teams to develop common assessments, evaluate products of student learning, and plan instruction. Teachers are learning how to operate as professional learning communities. An additional task this year has been to participate in the development of a school mission, vision, and values. Below are the products of this work. This work is in DRAFT stage and will continue to be refined as each group continues to learn as a professional learning community.

**SHS MISSION:** The mission of Springfield High School is to empower ALL students to find success academically and socially with a life-long sense of responsibility for their own learning and future success. Our students will be among tomorrow's leaders in what is an ever-changing and complex society.

**SHS VISION:** All Springfield High School students will be critical thinkers. To achieve this goal we will provide an environment that fosters curiosity and positive exploration by using a variety of teaching strategies that allows for flexibility according to the needs of our students. To engage all stakeholders we will continue to build positive relationships with students, parents and the community.

**SHS VALUE STATEMENT:** Staff will provide opportunities for students to implement critical thinking skills. Teachers will provide students with opportunities to respond to higher-level questioning through writing and thoughtful discussion.

### **MAIN OFFICE-525-3100**

Athletics, parking, accounts payable, Principal Mrs. Stahly, Mr. Dorr

### **GUIDANCE OFFICE 525-3106**

Transcripts, scholarship info, health & shot records – Mrs. Krekel and Mrs. Esela  
Administrators - Mrs. Usinger, Mr. Schurman, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Lamsargis, Mr. Crum, and Mrs. Povse

### **ATTENDANCE OFFICE 525-3111**

Discipline Office; report absences, early dismissals, send message to your student.  
Mr. Barnes, Mrs. Greco, Mr. Norman

### **STUDENT SUPPORT 525-3109**

Special Education, Social Work, PBIS Support, Truancy, Nurse  
Ms. Troike, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Yoggerst, Mrs. Womack, Mrs. Buecker