



# Springfield Highlights



2011-2012

MIKE GROSSEN, PRINCIPAL

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER, 2011

Mailing funded by the SHS PTO.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:**

End of First Quarter - 2:17 Dismissal

- Friday, October 14

Report Cards to Students

- Wednesday, October 19

Parent/Teacher Conferences

- Thursday, October 20 in PM
- Friday, October 21 8:15 AM - 3:30 PM
- Please refer to page 4 of this newsletter for more information.

Fall Play

- October 28, 29 & 30

Scholastic Book Fair

- **Oct. 17 - 21** in the SHS library. The fair will be open to students during school hours and open to parents during the Parent/Teacher Conference hours on Oct. 20 and 21. Please drop in and browse while you are waiting between conferences.

No School - Veteran's Day

- Friday, November 11

Graduation & Jostens Info for Seniors

- On **Tuesday, November 22**, Jostens reps will be presenting graduation info during 2nd and 5th periods.

2:17 Early Dismissal

- Wednesday, November 23

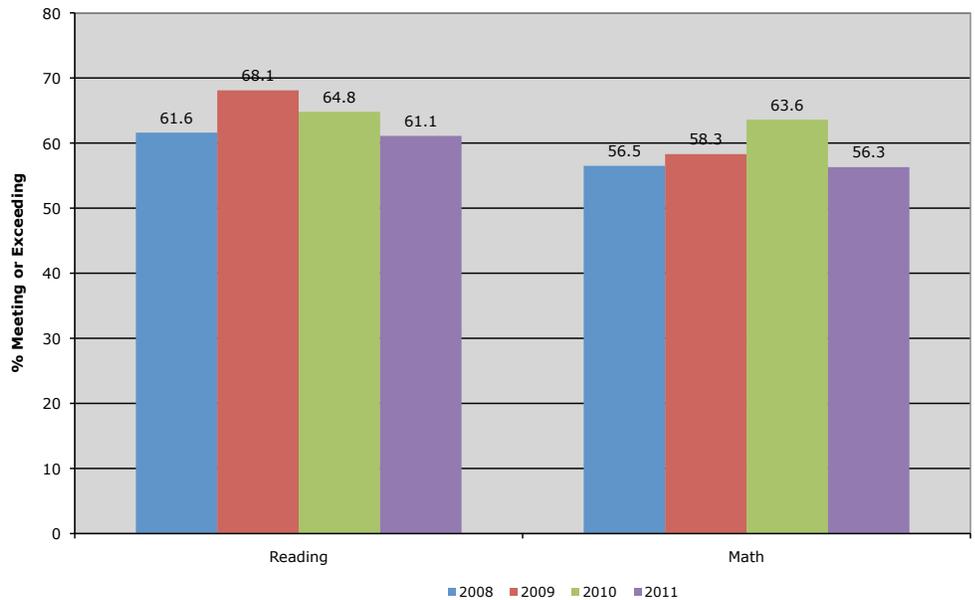
Thanksgiving Break

- Thurs., Nov. 24 & Fri., Nov. 25

Graduation Orders from Jostens

- On **Wednesday, November 30**, Jostens reps will be in the Commons taking graduation orders.

2008-2011 Trend Data - ALL



### **FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK:**

Tests have become a large part of our work here at SHS. We continue to use several different types of tests, like classroom quizzes, chapter or unit tests, final exams, SRI, PSAT, EXPLORE, PLAN, and the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE). All of these are either school, district, or state exams and give us valuable information about our students and guide us to make adjustments if needed. One important thing that we all need to remember is that testing is a snapshot of our students and the students cannot be defined by tests alone.

The PSAE is the assessment that the state uses to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). This test is administered to all 11th grade students in April of every year. The PSAE is what is called a "high stakes test" because our schools are judged on how all of our students are doing by that one exam alone. SHS looks at the 2011 PSAE data to help drive and adjust our instruction.

Our scores for Reading and Math are in the graph above. SHS went down 3.7 points in Reading and our Math scores went down by 7.3 points. As a result, we did not make Adequate Yearly Progress.

This year, like every year, we will work relentlessly to improve our scores and help our students make academic progress.

Thanks for your support.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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

Main Office:	525-3100	Fax:	525-3122
Guidance Office:	525-3106	Fax:	525-3129
Attendance Office:	525-3111		
Room 106:	525-3109		

### **FROM THE PTO: Jim Bremhorst**

We hope that all of your students are off to a good start with the 2011-12 school year. Are you looking for ways to make your student's SHS experience more fulfilling? Here are some thoughts on how to maximize what SHS has to offer.

Research shows that students with involved parents (families), no matter what their income or background, are more likely to do better in school, stay in school longer and like school more. How can parents and families get more involved? It's not as hard as you might think. Here are five ideas that can be easily implemented with families, teachers, and students.

1. You can start by **setting expectations for your student**. This does not mean that every student should be expected to get straight A's. But it can be as simple as setting attendance expectations, setting behavior expectations, and encouraging a positive attitude. It can be expanded from here.
2. **Two-way communication** from the home to SHS and from SHS to the home. Parents should not be hesitant to contact teachers either by phone or email. Every teacher can be reached through the school office or by email. Each teacher's email is on the schools website. You can access your students schedule and grades on the district's website. Let us know if you need help doing that. Homeroom teachers should be reaching out to each parent also. Ask them if you have questions about anything and they can help you find answers. Do you know who your child's homeroom teacher is? Ask your student about their classes and teachers every night. You'd be surprised what you learn and how your interest can energize your student.
3. **Learning at home**. Try to help your student with their homework. That does not mean that every parent needs to be a wiz at math or science. But you can help your student with memorization or reviews of chapters and maybe more. Or just monitor that their homework is getting done each night.
4. **Volunteer** at SHS. There are many ways to do this. The PTO, the Boosters, and many other parent groups are always looking for help. We have parents tutoring students before and after school. We have men mentoring male students. We have parents working concessions at games. It's a great way to get better connected to the school.
5. **Get involved with SHS and district decision making**. Attend PTO meetings to have a dialogue with the principal and other administrators. Attend school board meetings. Volunteer for PTO and district committees.

It's not as hard as you think. Not everyone wants to get involved in all 5 ways above. But start at number one and work your way down. By tackling 1, 2, and 3 above you can make an immediate impact on your student's academic achievement. See..... it's not that hard.

### **FROM THE BOOSTER CLUB PRESIDENT: Keith Sias**

Congratulations to all our students, coaches and sponsors on a great start to the school year! Please take the opportunity to experience the many wonderful activities going on at SHS. Don't forget to stop by Dublin's Pub at Vinegar Hill Mall after home football and basketball games to celebrate with fellow Senator fans!

Thanks to all of you who have already joined the Booster Club this year. If you haven't joined yet, it's not too late! Membership information and forms are available through the Booster Club link on the SHS website. Adult Activity Passes to all SHS home games and events are still available for anyone joining at the Booster and Super Senator levels. Junior Senator Passes for children 8th grade and younger are also available through the Booster Club.

Spirit and Pride gear will be available at home football games as well as home basketball games, or by contacting Suzanne or Pete Havey at maxnmom1@yahoo.com. Be sure to check out our new selections!

Upcoming events for the Booster Club include the "SHS Dodge Ball Tournament," which will be held in early November. Check the Booster Club website for updates. Last year was our first year holding this event, and all the students and adults who participated had a wonderful time.

Also mark your calendars now for our annual SHS Red and Black Gala and Auction, which will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012 at the Springfield Hilton. The Gala is an important fundraiser for the Booster Club, accounting for 50% of the funds the Booster Club raises for the year and is a fun night featuring entertainment provided by SHS students, dinner, and a live and silent auction.

Watch for further Booster Club event updates and volunteer opportunities through this newsletter and the Booster Club link on the school website.

## **PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR FRESHMEN AND OTHER NEW STUDENTS**

All freshmen (9<sup>th</sup> graders) and other students new to District #186 must have a physical examination prior to the start of the school year. If your physical form has not been turned in, it must be completed and turned in to your homeroom teacher or the Guidance Office (room 104) by **October 14, 2011**. Freshmen who have not turned in their physical and immunizations by **October 14, 2011** will be excluded from attending school per state law.

## **THE 21st CENTURY PROGRAM**

The 21st Century Program will be under the direction of our Academic Coach Mr. A. D. Carson. The program will be coordinated with our own after-school tutoring program. More information will be provided in morning announcements.

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS TO THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER**

SHS families and supporters are invited to purchase home subscriptions to The Senator, the school's award-winning student newspaper. There are generally 6 issues printed per school year. The \$10 subscription appears as an option on the district's billing notice for student fees.

The first mailing of The Senator will depend on the processing of fee payments at the district level. Although this mailing may be delayed, subscribers will receive all back issues.

Questions should be directed to Ms. Negele, faculty advisor, at SHS.

## **CAPITOLINE YEARBOOK NEWS:**

- Seniors need to have their yearbook pictures taken by Class Act by Dec. 20. Call 787-0688 for an appointment.
- Purchase a yearbook for only \$50 until Dec. 12, then it will be \$60. We do offer layaway with \$25 down and the rest due in May.
- Purchase yearbook Happy Ads for seniors, teams and clubs.
- Contact Mrs. Barkmeier, faculty advisor, at SHS.

## **COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS**

Seniors who plan to apply to a four-year university should do so early. Many applications, especially for Illinois schools, are available in the guidance office. They are also available online.

To those applying to the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), the priority filing date is November 1. To assure processing, those applications must be in the Guidance Office by the end of the day, Friday, October 21. Illinois State's priority filing date is November 15, those applications should be in the Guidance Office by November 8. Other universities have priority dates also. Students should check with Mr. Williams or Mrs. Povse for these dates.

## **SENIORS - INFORMATION REGARDING THE PSAE**

The results of the ACT test taken as part of the PSAE are optional for inclusion on the transcript. Please see Mrs. Krekel or Mr. Williams in the SHS Guidance Office no later than November 1, 2011.

## **POST SECONDARY COACH**

Springfield High has the services of Donna Povse, retired Guidance Dean, to assist students and families with post high school plans. She especially hopes to work with those who may not have thought about the option of continued education past high school.

Mrs. Povse can help explore career options, vocational, technical or military options. Assisting with applications, financial aid information and scholarships/grants will be part of her service. Bus trips to college campuses will also be scheduled. The first bus trip is scheduled to go to SIU Carbondale on October 19.

Office hours are flexible, Tuesday & Thursday, 8:30-3:30 and Wednesday from 11:30-3:30. If early morning or later afternoon appointments are needed arrangements can be made. She may be reached at 525-3106 through the Guidance office.

Special evening presentations to parent and students are also planned. Watch the newsletter or the website for more information.

## **SHS WEBSITE** <http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/springfield/>

The SHS website has important college planning information, college and military recruiter visit dates, financial aid information, a scholarship database and notices of special programs. Please go to the website, click on Guidance and be informed.

