



# S.H.S. highlights

## FUNDED by the PTO

December 2009/January 2010

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

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL – CHRISTINE STAHLY

In addition to striving to improve student achievement, we are also working diligently to provide a safe learning environment for students. This means we expect all students to follow the behavior expectations of our school. Students are recognized quarterly through Be a Senator celebrations when they behave in a safe and orderly way. When misbehavior occurs, consequences are issued. Sometimes the consequence is a detention. When students are assigned a detention, they are expected to serve their detention within 24 hours. Detentions are held daily before school from 7:30 to 8:10am. Detentions are held Monday through Thursday after school from 3:25 to 3:55pm. Before school and after-school detentions are served in Room 166. Tardy detentions that are 15 minutes long can be served at the beginning of student's lunch, as well as before or after school. If served before or after school students must remain the entire 30 minutes. Detentions served on A lunch are served in Room #314. Lunch B detentions are served in Room 128. If a student fails to serve the detention within 24 hours other penalties will apply. **If a fifteen-minute detention is not served student will be assigned to in-house. If a 30 minute detention is not served a Saturday detention will be assigned from 8:00 am until 11:00 am.** If the student does not attend the Saturday detention, he/she will be assigned a one-day suspension from school or two days in-house suspension, parent choice. Accepting responsibility for one's behavior is an integral part of maturing. Help us create citizens of which we can all be proud by insisting that your child Be a Senator by following our behavior expectations.

### PTO

It has been a busy last few weeks for the PTO. At our October meeting, we funded a \$1000 grant request from the Math Department to purchase new calculators for classroom use. At the same meeting, we began a collaboration with the Kids in Need (KIN) Program at SHS and voted to give the proceeds of the October, November and December sales from our vending machine to that program. As of early December we have donated nearly \$300 to KIN. The proceeds of September sales, nearly \$200, went to the Science Department for general departmental needs.

The PTO provided a band of loyal volunteers for a number of Fall semester activities, including ticket-taking at home football games, selling glo necklaces at Homecoming, manning the Scholastic Book Fair (which netted \$650 for the SHS Library this year) and hosting a Teacher Appreciation Lunch at the School. The PTO has also continued its tradition of collaborating with the School administration on the Be A Senator program. A record number of students qualified for Be A Senator recognition this month and were rewarded with SHS reusable water bottles filled with candy. Thank you to all the

volunteers who made these activities possible.

Please regularly visit the PTO link on the SHS website. There you can find up-to-date information about PTO events, meetings, teacher needs, our newsletter, etc. The direct link is <<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/springfield/pto>>. You can also find the PTO link on the right hand side of the SHS Home page.

### BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

Thank you, once again, to all of our new and returning Booster members who helped make our membership drive this fall a great success!! Your contribution helps to support over 30 clubs, teams and organizations providing additional opportunities for our students to grow at Springfield High. It's never too late to become an SHS Booster!! Membership information and forms can be found on our website [www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/springfield/booster](http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/springfield/booster). For more information contact Becky Schlouch at [schlouch@aol.com](mailto:schlouch@aol.com) or 787-7277.

#### **Attention all Basketball Fans and Booster Club Activity Pass Holders**

Seating in a Reserved Section at home basketball games is one of the benefits provided with the following Booster Club Membership levels: Corporate Sponsor, Super Senator, Booster, and Junior Senator. The Booster Club Activity pass provided with these membership levels will allow entry into the Reserved Section. If necessary, the Reserved Section may have to be opened up for general admittance for games that have a large attendance. Therefore, please plan on arriving early to the games to ensure a seat in the Reserved Section.

Thanks in advance for your understanding and support!

#### **Spirit & Pride**

Are you looking for that last minute Christmas gift or stocking stuffer?? Spirit & Pride merchandise would make a great gift for your SHS student!! Merchandise will be available at our home events. You can visit our website store for some of our merchandise or for a more complete list, contact Carla Bolt at [cbolt@iasb.com](mailto:cbolt@iasb.com) or 528-1620.

#### **Red & Black Senator Gala - Saturday, February 27th**

Believe it or not, plans are underway for our THIRD annual Red & Black Senator Gala!! We will be returning to the Prairie Capitol Convention Center on Saturday, February 27, 2010 for an evening of good food, unique auction items, wonderful entertainment and Senator Camaraderie!! Invitations will be going out to all SHS parents after the holidays. If you know of someone who does NOT have an SHS student or who did NOT attend last year but is interested in attending, please call Maria Robinson at 787-3661 with their name and address. We will add them to our mailing list.

Anyone interested in making a donation of merchandise or services to the auction itself should also contact Maria at 787-3661.

We are looking forward to another great year for the Gala! With your help and support of this event, we can continue to fund a larger portion of the annual requests for our extracurricular teams, clubs and organizations. So please check the website. We will be updating it as details become available. Hope to see you all there!!

## Other Upcoming Events

**Beat Back the Winter Blues night - Friday, February 12th.**

**Booster Trivia Night- Friday, March 12th.**

Mark these events on your calendar and be sure to check the website for more details to come.

A huge "Thank You" to all of you who helped with Fall concessions and events. We couldn't have done it without you. Looking forward to working with you for our winter events.

**SPIRIT & PRIDE IS ALIVE AT SHS!!! WE LOVE OUR SENATORS!!!**

### Class of 2011 Fund Faiser

The Junior Class is selling black fleeces that say Class of 2011 on them. They come in 3/4 zip or full zip. They are \$35 and make great Christmas gifts! See Mrs. Pence in room 210 for an order form.

## PTO Funds Mathematics Project

The PTO has generously provided funding for the mathematics department to purchase 95 scientific calculators. These calculators will be available to all students enrolled in the mathematics classes at SHS. The mathematics department would like to thank the PTO for the support they have given to the mathematics department at SHS.

## Yearbook Announcements

If you would like to buy a 2009-2010 yearbook, you may do so when you pay your school fees. Students can also buy a yearbook through Mrs. Devlin. Make checks payable to SHS, put your student's name and grade on the check and place in Mrs. Devlin's mailbox in the Main Office. The cost of a yearbook is \$50.00 if you purchase prior to December 18, 2009. We order yearbooks based on the number of students who have purchased yearbooks by December 18, 2009. We order a few extra; however, we have sold out in the years past. It is important that you order by December 18 to guarantee you will get a yearbook.

## National Honor Society

Each spring Springfield High School's Eda Nelsch Chapter of the National Honor Society inducts new members. Membership election is a long, in-depth process. During third quarter of each year, all fifth (juniors) and seventh (seniors) semester students who have a 20.000 cumulative grade point average qualify scholastically for candidacy.

Once they have qualified scholastically, the students are required to complete a Student Information Sheet that asks for information concerning school activities and community activities. The students *must provide* verification of participation from the sponsors of all community activities in which they were involved. During the calendar year leading up to selection (second semester of the candidate's sophomore year to the end of first semester of their junior year), each candidate needs a minimum of 50 hours of school activities and a minimum of 20 hours of community service activities. The community service

hours cannot be solely related to your place of worship. At least 10 hours of service outside of your place of worship must be present to be accepted. Any student who does not complete and submit this form by the designated time shall not be further considered for selection. **Membership in NHS is not based solely on academic achievement.**

After the information forms are submitted, all school activities must be verified by the coach/sponsor indicating the student's participation, character, leadership, and service within that activity.

At this same time, the SHS faculty and administrators complete forms rating the students whom they know regarding character, leadership, and service. Staff members rate students only in areas in which they are knowledgeable, with most of the staff rating students in only one or two categories. Many do not feel they know some of the students well enough to fairly rate them on their service to the school and community.

The information sheet, the verification forms, and the teachers' recommendations are then given to the NHS faculty council members who, upon evaluation, elect students for membership. **All information regarding candidates and their selection is confidential to the faculty council.**

The interpretations of leadership, service and character used by the faculty council members are as follows:

### **Leadership**

- Student is resourceful in proposing new ideas, applying principles and making suggestions.
- Student demonstrates leadership in promoting school activities.
- Student exercises influence on peers in upholding school ideals.
- Student contributes ideas that improve the civic life of the school.
- Student exemplifies positive attitudes.
- Student inspires positive behavior in others.
- Student demonstrates academic initiative.
- Student is able to delegate responsibilities.
- Student successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducts business effectively and efficiently, and is reliable and dependable without prodding.
- Student demonstrates leadership in the classroom, at work, and in school activities.
- Student is thoroughly dependable in any responsibilities accepted.

### **Service**

- Student is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude.
- Student participates in a **variety** of outside school activities.
- Student volunteer's dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance.
- Student cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school.
- Student is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and inter-scholastic competition.
- Student does committee and staff work uncomplainingly.
- Student shows courtesy by assisting visitors, teachers, and students.

### **Character**

- Student takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously.
- Student constantly exemplifies desirable qualities of personality (cheerfulness, friendliness, poise, and stability).
- Student upholds principles of morality and ethics.
- Student cooperates by complying with school regulations concerning property, programs, office, halls, etc.

- Student demonstrates the highest standards of honesty and reliability.
- Student shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others.
- Student observes instructions and rules, punctuality, and faithfulness both inside and outside the classroom.
- Student has powers of concentration and sustained attention as shown by perseverance and application to studies.
- Student manifests truthfulness in acknowledging obedience to rules, avoiding cheating in written work, and showing unwillingness to profit by the mistakes of others.
- Student actively helps to rid the school of bad influences or environment.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ruedin or Ms. Hubbard.

### **Mailing of The Senator to Family Subscribers**

Because the processing of student fees at the district level is not complete, it is not yet possible to mail The Senator to family subscribers. Families who paid the \$10.00 subscription fee for the Senator will receive all back issues when the list of subscribers becomes available, hopefully early in December. Mailings will occur on schedule during the remainder of the year.

### **Semester Exam Schedule**

ZERO HOUR EXAMS: Monday and Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:25 - 8:15 a.m.

Because a student's lunch shift depends on the location of the fourth period class, it is necessary to have the extra class be the 4<sup>th</sup> period each exam day. We have reduced the length of the 4<sup>th</sup> period class. Announcements will be made during this hour.

### **Wednesday, December 16, 2009**

Exam	Period 2	8:24-10:00
Exam	Period 6	10:05-11:35
Lunch A		11:35-12:05
Period 4A		12:10-12:45
Period 4B		11:40-12:15
Lunch B		12:15-12:45
Exam	Period 7	12:50-2:20

### **Thursday, December 17, 2009**

Exam	Period 3	8:24-10:00
Exam	Period 5	10:05-11:35
Lunch A		11:35-12:05
Period 4A		12:10-12:45
Period 4B		11:40-12:15
Lunch B		12:15-12:45
Make-Up Exams		12:50-2:20

### **Friday, December 18, 2009**

Exam	Period 1	8:24-10:00
Exam	Period 4	10:05-11:35
Lunch A		11:35-12:05
Period 4A		12:10-12:45
Period 4B		11:40-12:15
Lunch B		12:15-12:45
Make-Up Exams		12:50-2:20

CACC students WILL NOT attend CACC on December 16, 17, and 18. CACC students who arrive before or during the first exam period each day will be directed to Study Hall in the Commons until it is time for the second exam of the day.

Students who do not have make-up exams may leave after their second exam on December 17 and 18. Lunch will be served all three days.

### **Attendance Office**

Over the last several years, SHS has been experiencing problems with students who are habitually late to school and their classes. When students are late to class, it not only interferes with the educational process for that student but also disrupts the educational process for other students when the teacher must stop teaching to admit the student into class. This year we are attempting a proactive approach and are seeking the support of staff, student and families.

When students report to school tardy they should enter the southeast entrance. They will receive an unexcused admittance slip and a detention from security and will be expected to report directly to their class. Parent(s)/guardians are requested to call the Attendance Office within 24 hrs to report the reason for the student's tardy. If the tardy is excused then the detention will be voided and the student will not serve consequences. The following are excused reasons:

1. Medical appointment with documentation from a professional. The student should bring this documentation with them to the Attendance Office where they will receive an excused admittance slip and no detention is written.
  2. Missed half day of school day due to illness.
  3. Verified late Laidlaw or SMTD where the fault is that of the bus company.
  4. Home emergencies (fire, flood, etc.) not power outages.
  5. Auto accident when traveling to school (provide police report or ticket).
  6. Religious holiday observance.
  7. Death or funeral in the family.
  8. Court appearance (provide copy of court summons).
- Parent calls or visits to the office will not excuse a student's tardy or absence until the proper documentation is received.

Those students whose detentions are not voided will be expected to serve prior to the assigned date. The school is also increasing its efforts to communicate with parents when their students receive a detention. Failure to serve the detention will result in the student being assigned a Saturday detention.

If the Parents/Guardians have extenuating circumstances they are encouraged to contact their students Assistant Principal at 525-3106.

### **GUIDANCE NEWS**

#### **Annual Consumer Education Test**

This year Springfield High School will be offering the state "Consumer Education Test" sometime early 2nd Semester. Students who pass the test will meet the district's consumer education graduation requirement. Students who are not currently enrolled in the consumer education class and are interested in taking the test should see Mr. Lawson in the guidance office. There is no charge for taking the test.

#### **College Visits**

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to visit colleges they may be considering on attending after high school graduation. Students are permitted to take a half-day to visit a local college and a full day to make a visit out of the city. Students must call schools to make an appointment. They must also get a "college visit" form from their dean. A parent must call the attendance office if a student is going to be absent.

#### **College Administrators Visit SHS**

Just as a reminder. Juniors and seniors should take advantage of meeting with college administrators as they make their visits to SHS. Announcements are made letting students know of these visits. Students must get a pass from guidance at least the day before in order to be dismissed from class to visit with a college representative.

### Prairie State Achievement Exams

This two-day statewide test will be administered to all **juniors** on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<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 student. This exam is very important. Any student who misses the exam will have to make up the exam in May. There will be more information in the next newsletter.

### College Bound Juniors and Seniors

College bound juniors and seniors need to take either the ACT or SAT I college entrance tests. All juniors will take the ACT on day one of the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) on April 28, 2009. If your junior student wishes to take the test before April or your senior wishes to retake the test, these are the remaining test dates and registration deadlines.

ACT Test Date	ACT Registration Deadline
Dec. 12, 2009	Standby
Feb. 7, 2010	Jan. 5, 2010
Apr. 10, 2010	March 5, 2010
Apr. 28, 2010*	
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010

\*PSAE ACT exam

All are national test dates, Saturday mornings, with the exception of the PSAE.

SAT Test	SAT Registration Deadline
Dec. 5, 2009	Already passed (Standby)
Jan. 23, 2010	Dec. 15, 2009
March 13, 2010	Feb 4, 2010
May 01, 2010	March 25, 2010
June 05, 2010	April 29, 2010

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

1. Springfield High was able to secure a grant to pay for all students who attend SHS to take a **free online ACT prep course** through ACT. The ACT online Prep course offers a customized study plan, timed practice sheets, unlimited usage and access for 1 year, test taking strategies, diagnostic test, and detailed explanations of correct/incorrect responses. Each student will be given a username and password so they can access this from anywhere with internet access.
2. ETM is a private local company that offers a fall and spring test preparation course. Please call 793-2391.
3. Lincoln Land Community College offers both fall and spring preparation.
4. The Springfield Urban League provides free test preparation. Call 789-0934 for details.
5. The ACT.org or Collegeboard.com web sites have test preparation links.
6. During the months prior to the PSAE, junior core teachers will do planned test preparation activities weekly.

[www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/springfield/](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, and 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.

### Attendance Reminder

The administrators with the help of Ms. Womack, Truancy Interventionist, are responsible for tracking your student's daily attendance. You have 24 hours to call the Student Services

Office, 525-3111, to clear the absence. If you do not call, your student is subject to progressive consequences including regular detentions, in-house, and out-of-school suspension. Please call in a timely manner.

### PLAN Testing

The PLAN Test can help all students – those who are college-bound, as well as those who are likely to enter the workforce directly after high school. As a “pre-ACT” test, it is a powerful predictor of success on the ACT exam, and it also helps students explore career/training options.

All sophomores took the PLAN Test in November and the results should be available in January. Score reports will be distributed to students by Assistant Principals in January. They will demonstrate how to use the test results and career exploration information. Parents with questions may call the Assistant Principals at 525-3106.

### Collegezone.com

Collegezone.com is a “one-stop-shop” internet web site designed to provide lots of information on college planning, paying for school, and career planning. You will have access to a centralized source of information, as well as information concerning the Illinois Student Assistance Commission's programs, processes, and resources.

### Postsecondary News

The first college bus trip was a huge success. Juniors and seniors were able to visit SIU-Carbondale on November 5, Blackburn College in Carlinville on October 27, and Eastern Illinois University will be visited December 8. More trips will be scheduled for second semester. Listen to/read on-line announcements for details of upcoming tips. These trips allow students (10th, 11th, and 12th grades) to have a campus tour, hear about admissions criteria, visit a residence hall and eat lunch in a university dining hall. Upcoming in our schedule is the Pathways Career presentation at Lincoln Land Community College in early January. This will be an opportunity for students to receive information on the variety of programs available at LLCC based on the student's career path interest.

On February 4 at 9:22 juniors will have a presentation called Making Your College Search count. At 10:17 the seniors will have the presentation. Parents are welcome at these informational assemblies. In early February the financial aid department of the University of Illinois at Springfield will make a presentation to students and parents on the financial aid process. They will focus on the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) which should be done before March 1 for most colleges and universities.

**Seniors and senior parents should monitor the Guidance/Scholarships page of the SHS website to see what scholarships are available.**

### **FIRST QUARTER BE A SENATOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Congratulations to the 1,360 SHS students who were acknowledged by Be A Senator for the 1st quarter acknowledgement! These were the students who did NOT receive a dress code referral!!! These students have been presented with, or will be presented with, an SHS Be A Senator water bottle filled with goodies.

A special thank you to the PTO for making this reward possible - for the purchase of the bottles, filling the bottles with candy, and assisting with passing out of the bottles.

Thank you to everyone for dressing like a Senator!

## 2ND QUARTER BE A SENATOR

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The 2nd Quarter BAS Acknowledgement will be focusing on the time period of October 26th - December 9th. Students who do not receive any: dress code referrals, cell phone or other electronic device referrals, unexcused absences will be acknowledged. Stay tuned to the announcements and website for the announcement of HOW the students will be acknowledged!

### DRESS CODE REMINDER

Please remember to help your student follow the district dress code guidelines. Clothing with holes (even if they are holes manufacturer-made) are not allowed. Sagging or oversized clothing is not allowed. Clothing that exposes the chest is not allowed. Clothing that has inappropriate messages (i.e. pictures of weapons, drug or weapons references) is not allowed.

Students will receive a dress code referral, the appropriate progressive discipline, and will have to change clothes or correct the problem. If the student does not have anything to change into, a call will be made to parents or guardians to request that either appropriate clothing be brought to school or permission for the student to be sent home to change. If one of these options is not possible, the student will go to in-house for the remainder of the day,

Thank you for dressing like a Senator!

### ELECTRONIC DEVICE REMINDER

Students are allowed to use cell phones and other electronic devices on the first floor BEFORE the 8:15 bell rings and during both lunch shifts. They are also allowed to use them AFTER the final bell of the day. Students who do not follow these rules will receive a referral, the appropriate progressive discipline, and will be asked to hand over the device. If the student does not comply, appropriate discipline will be given (i.e. - in-house).

Parents and guardians are asked to NOT text or call during the day except for during appropriate-use periods in case students do not remember to turn the devices off, as the students will receive referrals.

Thank you for Being A Senator!

**#'s at a glance!**

**Attendance: 525-3111**

**Guidance: 525-3106**

**Main Office: 525-3100**

## PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

### Disruption/Disrespect

1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> referral = in-house for that period same day and next  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> referrals = in-house for full day  
6<sup>th</sup> referral or more = off-site suspension

### Cell Phone/Dress Code

1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> referral = 30-minute detention  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> referrals = in-house for full day  
6<sup>th</sup> referral = off-site suspension

### More than ten minutes late to first period, unexcused

1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> incident = 30-minute detention  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> = ½ day in-house

### Full-Day Unexcused Absence

1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> incident = in-house for full day  
3<sup>rd</sup> incident or more = referral or Assistant Principal

### Flagrant Disrespect

1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> referral = in-house for full day  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> referrals = off-site suspension  
6<sup>th</sup> referral or more = off-site suspension

### ½ day Unexcused Absence

1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> referral = Saturday detention  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> referral = in-house for full day  
6<sup>th</sup> referral or more = off-site suspension