

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

A message from Mr. Miller

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! It is so hard to believe that we have already switched the calendar over to 2023 and that we are almost half way through the 2022-2023 school year. I am sure like me, many of you have just felt like the time is flying and those of you who are parents with seniors probably cannot believe how close they are to walking out our doors with their diploma.

Throughout the year and through past issues of this newsletter we have always tried to make sure that parents are aware of the major events occurring here at the high school, promoting the good that are students do and sharing some insights as to where we are going. This issue contains information about preparing for the 2023-2024 school year for our underclassmen as well as getting all of our seniors ready to exit our building and succeed in the world.

Before diving into the issue I would like to review an important item with the SLHS community, our parking and parent drop off situation. While the year has been very good with parents and student drivers respecting our physical limitations, there have been some instances where vehicles have been slightly reckless or impatient while driving. Our goal is always to have all of our students enter the building safely and leave safely everyday. I kindly ask that everyone please be patient, slow down, and be mindful when dropping off, picking up, or parking.

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Joshua C. Miller, Principal

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 JANUARY 2023

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Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.

- Pele

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 1/16 - MLK Jr. Holiday - All Schools Closed
- 1/19 - Last Day of 2nd Quarter
- 2/9 - 8th to 9th Grade Parent Information Night, 6:30 PM @ SLHS
- 2/17 - No School for Students
- 2/20 - President's Day Holiday - All Schools Closed
- 3/10 - No School for Students
- 4/5 - Early dismissal*
- 4/6 - 4/10 - Spring Break, All Schools Closed*
- 5/15 - 5/26 - Spring Keystone Testing
- 5/24 - Senior Awards Ceremony
- 5/29 - Memorial Day - All Schools Closed
- 5/31 - Senior Obligation Day
- 6/1 - Senior Sunset @ 7:30 PM
- 6/2 - SLHS Graduation @ Stabler Arena

* - These dates could be changed in Five Inclement Weather Days are used prior to April.



"If we take care of the moments, the years will take care of themselves.

-Maria Edgeworth

STUDENT RECOGNITION



This past holiday season, students in Mrs. Bathgate's AP art course demonstrated their skills by painting windows at the Promenade Shops. Their artwork was a great display of their talent and the community connections we have here at SLHS. Great job to all our talented painters!



This past fall and winter Colonial League Cares has run two very successful food drives! We cannot express how proud all of us at SLHS are for the work these students are doing to provide to those in need in their community. Please keep up the great work!

Student Recognition Cont.



DeSales Ethics Bowl 2022 - Schools in the Lehigh Valley gather to compete in the annual ethics bowl at DeSales University. Teams are provided with a case that involves a business ethical dilemma. Teams choose a side and then present their case in front of a panel of business leaders from the Lehigh Valley. In Round 2 students are presented with a twist and must revise their presentation and present their case again. Southern Lehigh's team placed 1st this year! Congrats on an outstanding job!

Congratulations to our Math League participants. This past fall 58 students competed and 7 scored a 5 out of 6 on the test, which is a huge accomplishment. Please keep working hard and good luck the rest of the season Mathletes.



On December 21st, the SLHS music department held their Winter Concert at Zoellner. All of the students who participated were exceptional in showcasing their skills. It was a wonderful evening and a great way to close out 2022 before starting our Winter Break. A special shout out to the evening's emcees whom gave us smooth transitions and plenty of good humor.

Tech Trends that Parents Should Know About

Have you ever heard of ChatGPT? It is a communication app, but probably not how you think. ChatGPT is a new open-source artificial intelligence that allows people to enter a question (or essay prompt or request) and have the computer, using artificial intelligence, craft a well-written response that sounds like a human wrote it.

This app could have an impact on teachers and classrooms because students could enter an essay prompt and have the AI craft the essay for them and then submit it. The text created by the AI is so close to real human language that it cannot be confirmed by a program like Turnitin or even by the teacher's eye.

While I understand that we live in a hyper-connected world with instant access to answers, images, media, and so much more, I wanted to take a moment and address where we at SLHS stand. Our mission has always been: **Learning. Serving. Leading. One Interaction at a Time.** Every educator in this building acknowledges and works to adjust our classrooms to the world we live in and use every available tool that could aid in helping every student learn, serve, and lead. While ChatGPT is one of the newest and most powerful tools, we do not want the use of that tool to overshadow and replace the essence of that tool; helping students express themselves with their voice.

While it is acceptable and understood that students will use ChatGPT to help break through writer's block and help them develop ideas for their work, ChatGPT should never be used and submitted by any student as their original work. We are committed to all of our students developing skills that will aid them in the real world, like critical thinking, problem-solving, effective and honest communication and so much more. We look forward to working with you as a partner to help every student see the value in developing their voice, their skills, and maintain academic integrity in all their work.

Attendance

Please be advised that the following protocol will be followed when visitors enter SLHS. Visitors will only enter through the main entrance.

- Visitors will identify themselves and must provide picture ID for verification.
- Visitor will state their intended destination in the building.
- The HS Greeter will call to confirm the appointment and get approval for any unexpected visitor. If the visit is unapproved or the recipient is unavailable. The visitor will be asked to call to make an appointment and return another time. The visitor will not be permitted to enter the building.
- If approved, the visitor will be issued a visitor's badge that must be worn in the building.

When the visit is complete, the visitor will proceed directly to the main entrance without making any other stops, return the visitor's badge and exit the building.

COUNSELING

ACADEMIC SUPPORT REMINDER:

Students are advised to speak with their teachers directly to discuss their academic progress and identify a course of action to improve learning outcomes and academic performance. Students needing extra help should also utilize the following available supports:

NHS Student Tutoring:

- Available for all core subjects and some electives
- Offered by NHS (National Honor Society) students during Spartan periods, study hall and after school hours (pending availability)
- Please complete the NHS tutor request form to request a tutor

Directed Study During Spartan

- Occurs daily during Spartan period (10:27 AM - 11:02 AM)
- Students can seek extra support in a specific course
- Students should contact their school counselor to request a Directed Study schedule change

QUICK REMINDERS



The Spartan Life

The Spartan Life podcast is on a roll. Two episodes have been released featuring junior Leah Lazurek and sophomore Madelyn Loghmani dissecting Season 5 of Cobra Kai, senior Elyse Paugh and what drew her to powerlifting, and Ms. Scoralick and how she got into teaching. On the Festivus Episode there are two special features from Mr. Castagna's public speaking class as well as back to back teacher interviews with Mrs. Schiffer and Mr. Anthony.



Transportation

All questions should be directed to the transportation department.

Transportation Hotline

610-282-5589

RideWithUs@slds.org

2023-2024 COURSE SELECTION

On January 23rd, the SLSD School Board will be voting on the approval and adoption of the 2023-2024 SLHS Program of Studies. With that approval, course selection for the 2023-2024 school year will begin for all underclassmen. Teachers will make recommendations for appropriate placement based on multiple data points, course prerequisites, and even potentially entrance exams. After viewing the teachers' recommendations, students and parents will electronically submit course requests. Parental review of their student's choices are important. Following the submission, students will meet individually with their counselors to review and finalize their course requests. Late in the spring, we will send home a tentative schedule. Parents and students should review that sheet to see what the next school year will potentially look like and that as many course requests were honored as possible.

The administration reserves the right to withdraw a course offering if a reasonable number of students do not elect the course or if staffing is not available. Remember, building a balanced schedule is one of the most important things you can do as a high school student. Challenge yourself to try new things and expand your horizons. We hope you have a successful school year and we are here to help guide you in any way we can.

Course Selection Process Timeline:

- **Late January:** Counselors will provide an overview of course selection information to students in grade level meetings during Spartan Period.
- **Late January:** Teachers will discuss course options with students in class and will enter course recommendations in Sapphire for each student.
- **Early February:** Students will have a one week window of time to input course requests into Sapphire for next school year. During this time, students should speak with their parents/guardians regarding course requests and should carefully consider teacher recommendations & course prerequisites.
- **February-May:** Students will have the opportunity to discuss course requests with their counselor.
- **June:** Students will be provided with a tentative schedule.
- **June 15:** Deadline for students to make changes to schedules.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- Please note that Math & Science teacher recommendations are based on performance in current classes only. Grade prerequisites for courses taken in previous years will be verified by the guidance office.
- Core subject teachers will be recommending courses directly in Sapphire.
- You will need to enter your courses directly into Sapphire
- You must schedule a **MINIMUM OF 7 CREDITS** and may select a maximum of 8 credits.
- Please read the course descriptions in the *Program of Studies* and be aware of course prerequisites.
- Courses marked with "DE" indicates a dual enrollment course and those marked with an "*" indicates a weighted course.
- **ALL SCHEDULE CHANGES MUST BE MADE BY JUNE 15th**



Dual Enrollment UPDATE

In Issue 2 of the Principal's Newsletter I provided the outline for all families on the structure we have for our Dual enrollment options here at Southern Lehigh High School. With the semester turnover occurring on January 20th, it is important that a review of current Dual Enrollment courses is covered as well as some updates for the 2023-2024 school year.

For students who are currently enrolled in Dual Enrollment courses or scheduled to take a Dual Enrollment eligible course in the Spring, here are your updates:

- Students who are currently enrolled in year-long courses with Dual Enrollment capability through Seton Hall, may have additional registration for the Spring semester. These students will receive information from their teachers during the first week of second semester to move forward with that process.
- Students who are in year long courses that have Dual Enrollment Capability with University of Pitt and LCCC will not have to complete any additional registration for the Spring semester.
- Students who are in first semester courses with Dual Enrollment capability with LCCC should follow-up with their teacher to make sure all course requirements are completed to receive credit.
- Students who are going to start second semester courses with Dual Enrollment capability with LCCC will begin the registration process with that teacher once the semester begins.
- At the conclusion of your course, whether it is year long or semester based, students must go directly to Seton Hall Project Acceleration, University of Pitt College in High School, or LCCC Dual Enrollment webpages to request official transcripts for their final grades.

For all students that are not scheduled in Dual Enrollment courses currently or for the Spring semester, here is a breakdown of what you can do or should think about.

- Seniors who are not currently in any Dual Enrollment capable courses and want to earn credits for college prior to graduation should look specifically at our Mansfield University Early Start Program. Their Spring semester courses are open and students can register.

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- The course selection process for the 2023-2024 school year will begin on January 24th. Families should review more detailed information on the Digital Program of Studies located on our website or [CLICK HERE](#).

While making the choice to enroll in Dual Enrollment courses is not always the easiest one, there are some benefits to taking these courses, such as:

- Less time required after high school to finish a college degree
- Provides students with a head start on the college experience
- Dual-enrollment classes often save students money on tuition
- Students may be able to transfer credits earned to a four-year school
- Students may choose from classes not currently available at their high school

Whatever the choice, it is good to consult with your Guidance counselor during the course selection process. The Program of Studies is renewed annually and is always adding additional Dual Enrollment opportunities that align to our current program and provide students valuable opportunities.

SENIOR MEETING ON JANUARY 24th

On January 9th the SLSD School Board was notified by Dr. Mahon that Stabler Arena was secured for SLHS Graduation for Friday June 2nd. On Monday, January 23rd the SLSD School Board will vote to approve the contract and secure the location and date of SLHS Graduation.

Following that approval, the senior class will have a meeting with SLHS Administration to cover the following items for the second half of their senior year:

- Senior Dues
- Senior Final Exam Schedule
- Senior Sunset
- Graduation Practice Schedule
- Graduation Ceremony Updates

Following the meeting with students, parents will receive a BlackBoard Connect detailing specifics that were shared with the students to help senior families prepare for the final stretch of their time at SLHS.

*Learning. Serving. Leading
One interaction at a time.*

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