

September 17, 2021

SLSD Parents/Guardians and Staff,

We hope that this message finds the families of the Southern Lehigh School District community well. Week three of the 2021-2022 school year has come to a close and the hallways of our five school buildings are filled with the robust sights and sounds of learning. We are so happy that those sights and sounds are totally different from the silence we heard in the halls last year at this time. We remain thankful for the hard work that our students and staff are engaged in as they progress somewhat normally through this school year. Outlined below are some updates and reminders for the entire Southern Lehigh School District community;

- National Merit Scholarship Competition** - Congratulations to Southern Lehigh High School Senior, Alexander Ding on being named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist. Alexander joins approximately 16,000 of the highest scoring students across the United States who are now competing for approximately 7,500 scholarships worth nearly \$30 million. The 16,000 National Merit Semifinalists represent less than 1 percent of top performing high school seniors in the United States. Additional congratulations to the following SLHS Seniors, Sofia Boensch, Mohammad Durrani, Alex Lyon, and Christian Piper who were named National Merit Commended students. The National Merit Commended designation is given to approximately 34,000 of the highest scoring students in the nation. Although National Merit Commended Students do not qualify for the National Merit Scholarships they represent high levels of academic achievement. Thank you to all of these students for their hard work and dedication and thank you to our staff for the role that they have played in the development of these students throughout their academic careers.
- AP Scholar Awards** - Each fall, the Advanced Placement Program recognizes high school students that have demonstrated outstanding college level achievement through their performance on multiple Advanced Placement Exams. Congratulations to the 61 current Southern Lehigh High School Students and 2021 graduates that have been named Advanced Placement Scholars by the College Board for demonstrating college-level achievement on the AP examinations in May of 2021. The College Board recognizes three levels of achievements based on the number of courses and exams.

<p>AP Scholar - The follow students/graduates qualified for the AP Scholar award by earning score of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.</p>	▼
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<p>Grey Aschliman, Jaaron DeSimone, Alexander DiCesare, Marissa Hespell, Caden Kim, Eric Kitagawa, Ava Lang, Nicole Oviedo, Alaina Patel, Joyce Sundo, and Madeleine Zeidenberg</p>

<p>AP Scholar with Honors - The following students/graduates qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor award by earning an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.</p>
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<p>Owen Bishop, Michael Coccozza, Michael Corrado, Alyssa DeSimone, Amanda Haussmann,</p>

Alexander Kane, Gabriella Lawler, Alexander Lyon, Addison Matsumura, Marley McGehee, Zachary Mello, Olivia Minutillo, Christian Piper, Angielisa Sirard, Aiden Tobin, Lauren Volkodav, Evelyn Wang, Yanfei Wen, & Lucas Werbisky

AP Scholar with Distinction - The following students/graduates qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

Megan Albanese, Sofia Boensch, Hannah Bucher, Anthony Clinton, Noah Denton, Alexander Ding, Aisha Durrani, Mohammad Durrani, Joy Fan, Rachel Goldie, Cross Hartman, Cameron Hines, Meghan Inglis, Sooyeon Jung, John Kachurak, Patrick Laughlin, Michelle Li, Sarah Lindley, Rose Litvak, Holly Mulhall, Cooper Nelson, Lillian Nelson, Luca Prando, Jadon Trackim, Saskia Van't Hof, Christian Velez Hernandez, Andrew Wendling, Evan Wimmer, Michael Woods, Lucas Zhang, & Jack Ziets

- **Global Peace Project Video** - Mrs. Fulmer's 2nd Grade Class at Hopewell recently participated in the Global Peace Project and submitted the following [Global Peace Video](#) as a component of their participation. Thank you to Mrs. Fulmer and her students for this great message.
- **SLSD Parent University Program** - SLSD is going to continue having Parent University Programs throughout the school year again this year. Parent University is an online seminar where our staff or community partners help parents better understand various programs or issues we all face.
 - On September 30th, the SLSD will host the first Parent University Program for the 2021-2022 School Year. This program will feature information about the related resources available within the SLSD including brief presentations by representatives from the K-12 School Counseling Team, the SLSD School Social Worker, an SLSD Student Assistance Program (SAP) Team Member, Caron Foundation Staff, Lehigh Valley Health Network School Based Behavioral Health Staff, and a summary of the Safe2Say Something Program. This presentation will be completed via Zoom and recorded and posted on the [Parent University Page](#) for those who are unable to attend.
- **Social Media Awareness** - As schools across the nation navigate a new social media trend that is encouraging the destruction and theft of school property we felt it was appropriate to share educational resources from Common Sense Media and the American Academy of Pediatrics concerning social media use and children.
 - [Common Sense Media - 11 Social Media Red Flags](#)
 - [Common Sense Media - Parent's Ultimate Guide to TicToc](#)
 - [Common Sense Media - Parent's Ultimate Guide to SnapChat](#)
 - [Common Sense Media - Parent's Ultimate Guide to Instagram](#)
 - [AAP - Promoting Healthy and Safe Use of Social Media](#)
- **Free Student Lunches** - Reminder, all SLSD students are eligible for free lunch this school year regardless of eligibility. Additional information about the SLSD School Lunch Program can be found using the following [link](#).

- **COVID-19 Case Communication Update** - Reminder, the SLSD has updated how COVID-19 Cases Communications will be disseminated. This change is being made in an effort to reduce the overall volume of communications sent within the Blackboard Connect Mass Communication System which will help to ensure that this system is being used as intended.
 - **Positive Case Communication** - These will be posted on the SLSD Website under the News Tab and on [21-22 COVID-19 Case Communications Page](#). Additionally, a Blackboard Connect Message will be sent to the affected building recipients only.
 - **Close Contact Communication** - Any individual who is deemed a close contact will receive a separate communication from the SLSD to denote that the individual has been deemed a close contact. Additional information about how an individual would be deemed a close contact can be found using the following [link](#).
- **SLSD Substitute Staff Openings** - There continues to be openings in the SLSD for Substitute Custodians, Substitute Food Services Workers, Substitute Instructional Assistants, Substitute School Nurses, and Substitute Teachers. More information, including the related applications can be found via the following [link](#).
- **Upcoming Dates** - Please accept this as a reminder of the following important upcoming dates;
 - **Professional Learning Day** - Students do not report to school on October 11th. This is a staff Professional Learning Day.

We continue to ask that all families complete daily [COVID-19 symptom](#) screening before school each morning. This critical step helps to ensure that all of our students and staff are able to remain in school. If your children are exhibiting any symptoms or are ill for any reason, please keep them home, even if the symptoms seem to be mild. No child should return to school until he or she is well and symptom free for 24 hours without medication, completes a consultation with a primary care physician, and/or receives a negative COVID-19 test. As a reminder, all students who come to school with COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home. Additional information about the SLSD procedures can be found on the [SLSD COVID-19 Resources Page](#).

Respectfully,

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