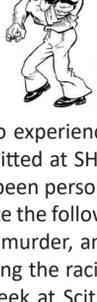


SCITUATE HIGH SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter
October 5, 2020



I am so sorry our student body has to experience the recent acts of racism being committed at SHS, particularly those students who have been personally impacted. Four months ago, I wrote the following response about the George Floyd murder, and today, these are equally fitting regarding the racist acts that have occurred in the last week at Scituate High School: I take these events very seriously, because they affect the safety, security, and spirit of our students and staff. They threaten values we hold to be most important: trust in humanity, inclusion of others, and celebration of the individuality and identity of every person who joins to weave the fabric of the Scituate High School community.

Since starting at SHS, I have experienced the detrimental outcome of ignorant actions and behaviors that erode the culture of our building. I have witnessed the deep and personal hurt that these actions inflict, and I believe that if even one student or staff member experiences this type of pain at the hands of a fellow Sailor, we have failed. We are a learning community, but what's more, I hope students and staff are able to build a culture here where we are more than that: we are crew. We are family. In a family, every member has each other's backs and stands up for each other. We build each other up, not tear each other down. I want to weave a fabric of Scituate High School so strong that no one would dream of shredding that foundation through acts of prejudice, racism, intolerance, or exclusion. When incidents do occur, we acknowledge wrongdoing, hold people accountable, learn from our mistakes, and grow together. How do we get this fabric? It's something we must create, and it is a choice.

Last week, I shared with our students, there is no place for hate, no place for racism, no place for intolerance at Scituate High School. Assistant Principals Lurette and Hughes and I will continue to investigate and address issues of racism, bigotry, and hatred in our school community because they are a threat to the safe learning environment all students have a right to experience, but we cannot do this work alone. We need your help.

Some students are currently developing an anti-racism club for the high school to explore ways to combat racism. Others are working to bring the work of Allies not Bystanders to freshmen and middle schoolers. Still others are wondering how to get involved and have their voice be heard. If you want to build an anti-racist school, there is a place and a role for you. It's everyone's job. I look forward to this challenging, rewarding, and necessary work and to working collaboratively with students, staff, families, and community members toward our common goals.

Important Dates:
October 6: Student Support Zoom Meeting, 6 p.m., link emailed

October 6: Family/Caregiver Virtual Coffee Hour, 6:30 p.m., link emailed

October 7: Family/Caregiver Virtual Coffee Hour, 8:00 a.m., link emailed

October 7: Class Elections in H Block

October 8: **Virtual Back to School Night**, 6-8 p.m.; information will be emailed to caregivers.

October 12: No School

October 9/13: In-Class Review of Anti-Racism Measures at SHS

October 14: In-School SATs for Seniors; must register by 10/5; Anti-Racism in-person meeting after SATs and zoom meeting for all interested, details TBD

October 20: NHS Induction, 5 p.m. for inductees only (event will be recorded)

Your partner in education,

Lisa E. Maguire

Lisa E. Maguire, Ed.D.,
Principal

NOTES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

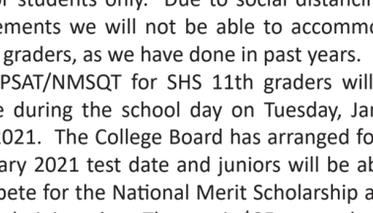
Mr. Lurette- Gr. 9 & 10

Ms. Hughes- Gr. 11 & 12

It is hard to believe that we are already in the month of October and we finally have many of our students in our building, even if on a limited basis at this time. As we mark the third week of school we know our teachers are busy tracking three groups of students and have been engaged with both Cohorts and our remote groups. Although we are not at the point where we are able to have all our students into the building safely we are encouraged by our student engagement and our students commitment to our new norms.

All students are expected to Connect 10 each day and follow the schedule so teachers are able to take attendance. On days students are unable to participate, parents should email the main office so we can record their absences as verified. The preferred method of reporting an absence is to email SHSattendance@scit.org. When working remotely, students are able to access their assignments each day and communicate with their teachers through email, even if they are unable to be in front of the computer. Students will be marked present for class in one of two ways:
Attends class during their Cohort in person or online: Present P/ Virtually Present VP
Parent emails student is sick/dismissed but is able to access virtually: Virtually Present VP

Meanwhile, we want to thank all our students and families for their grace and understanding as we navigate this new experience. We will continue to practice compassion, patience and kindness. We are Scituate High School and we always look after our Sailors.



Do you have a song request for Song of the Day? Bring a copy of the song (school-appropriate) on CD to the main office and we'll get your request in the mix!

DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Several former and current high school students took time out of their summer to help perform a diversity audit for over 100 titles in the high school book room. These volunteers used a Google Form developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to record basic book information as well as the represented experiences of the author and main characters, including information on race, gender, LGBTQ+ status, disability, religious background, and country of origin, among others. A number of students have volunteered, including Emma Riedel and Emily Love gave their permission to be recognized as this went to print. Thank you, Emma, Emily, and everyone else involved with this!

MATH

The math department is embracing teaching students in their classes as well as students who are remote. With many new opportunities to use digital resources, teachers and students have been exploring Desmos, Microsoft OneNote, IXL and Edulastic. These are just some of the platforms that teachers and students will learn with this school year. Teachers continue to explore the best way to engage learners and deliver high-quality instruction. We are grateful for open minds and the opportunity to deliver top notch instruction in such a different teaching environment.

If your student is in need of a loaner calculator for the school year, this link is accessible with a school email address.

COUNSELING CORNER

Tammy Rundle, Counseling Department Chair

PSAT/NMSQT: (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)

As you may know, the current COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges for public schools to serve as testing sites for College Board testing administrations. This year, Scituate High School is making plans to host the PSAT/NMSQT for current junior students only. Due to social distancing requirements we will not be able to accommodate 10th graders, as we have done in past years. The PSAT/NMSQT for SHS 11th graders will take place during the school day on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. The College Board has arranged for this January 2021 test date and juniors will be able to compete for the National Merit Scholarship at this test administration. The cost is \$25 per student. Financial assistance may be provided. It is important to be aware that SHS reserves the right to cancel this PSAT administration should the school shut-down as dictated by Governor Baker or Superintendent as Dictated. A link to register for the PSATs will be sent from School Counseling in the coming week. Please be sure to check your email as listed in ASPEN. Note that no payment is due at this time. Fees will be collected at a later date.

College Admissions Process:

The School Counseling Department has geared up for another robust college application season. Below please find some data regarding the early application trends from past graduating classes for your information. Please keep in mind that all school forms (teacher recommendations and evaluations, counselor recommendations, school reports and official transcripts are submitted directly from the counseling office through Naviance. Students are required to complete the transcript release form and submit it to the counseling office three weeks in advance of the first college deadline. The transcript release form and other documents may be accessed in the Class of 2021 Google classroom for students

Scituate High School Early Application Trends

Class Year	# colleges	# of early applications*	# of total applications	% of *early applications	# of students applying early	total # of 12th graders	% of students applying early
2008	337	183	1612	11%	69	239	29%
2009	308	232	1196	19%	75	195	38%
2010	277	238	1126	21%	77	188	41%
2011	281	340	1848	18%	75	191	39%
2012	325	556	1933	28%	112	232	48%
2013	295	615	1853	33%	182	217	83%
2014	285	608	1388	44%	117	189	61%
2015	311	683	1765	38%	145	208	69%
2016	331	608	1806	33%	147	214	69%
2017	349	782	2058	37%	169	242	69%
2018	318	851	1840	46%	159	228	69%
2019	300	913	1722	53%	161	220	73%
2020	340	1011	1972	51%	190	228	83%

*Early applications: Early Action, Early Decision, Rolling, Priority, etc.

WEEKLY PEAR TIP:

School Bonding is the scale that measures how safe and connected a student feels in the school or program environment (e.g., I care about my school community).

A student with School Bonding at or above the norm (average/strength) may...

- Feel connected with their school community.
- Have strong relationships with teachers and other administrators.
- Believe that the school is a safe space to learn.
- Feel proud to be a part of their school.
- Believe they are treated fairly in school.

A student with School Bonding below the norm (challenge) may...

- Feel unsafe in school.
- Feel isolated or overlooked by the school community.
- Have difficult relationships or conflict with teachers and administrators in the school.
- Feel targeted or treated unfairly by the school.
- Feel like an "outsider" at school.
- Avoid whole-school events or celebrations.
- Be angry or aggressive toward others who they feel targeted by.

We can support school bonding through the following approaches:

- Support individuals' identities and sense of belonging to a community by creating "affinity groups" (e.g., Latino students club, LGBTQ affirmation group, etc.).
- All staff members, including administration staff, greet students. Make it a norm that staff says hello to everyone they pass in the hallway.
- Make the school feel safe and welcoming by displaying student artwork, class work, and accomplishments in the hallways and display cases.
- Develop clear codes of conduct for the school and communicate this clearly to the students, with consistent enforcement between adults, to ensure a sense of safety and consistency.
- Provide opportunities for students to bond across the grades, e.g. spirit weeks, pep rallies, whole school assemblies celebrating student achievement, etc. Ensure that these events celebrate varied interests, not just sports or academics, and that more marginalized students have the opportunity to receive recognition for their strengths.
- Develop a student government system or student advisory board to engage and value youth in the community, which can help students feel ownership and develop a sense of belonging.
- Implement a mediation program for addressing conflict between students, between students and teachers, and between adults in the community.
- Engage your school community through social media, using it to celebrate all youth.

The Scituate High School core values are: Serve, Achieve, Invest, and Learn

