

October 2018
Volume 11
Issue 2

Principal's Newsletter

Somers High School



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Already half way through the 1st quarter, weather is turning cooler, and the leaves will soon be falling. College sports, holidays, and food make the fall season the best, in my humble opinion. We are off to a great start and want to continue the good work already being done.

As a reminder freshmen, sophomores, and juniors are **required** to take the PSAT. The school will cover the cost of the test. The test will be administered during the school day. Sophomores and juniors will test on October 10, 2018. Freshman will test on October 24th. Both days will be regular school days for **all** students. The data we gain from students taking the exam is immense. It will help us to establish instructional goals that will ensure your child has the tools necessary to perform well on the SAT.

Those of you who drive your children to school are doing an awesome job using the elementary loop to drop them off at school. Our bus lanes are clear and the faculty parking lot is not cluttered thus allowing staff to park safely. However, please continue to follow the plan as we begin to enter the cold winter months ahead.

In closing, we will continue to work diligently in order to improve services to students and parents. This newsletter is a monthly publication that is designed to keep you updated on the latest educational issues. In addition, I always maintain an open-door policy and am here to assist you. Please feel free to contact me if you should have any concerns. I am looking forward to working with each of you and to helping make our school the best it can possibly be.

Sincerely,

Gary M. Cotzin
Principal
Somers High School

Science in Action

The freshmen students in Mrs. Kelleher's and Ms. Bonin's Integrated Science classes were given an opportunity to test some popular consumer products in a laboratory setting. Students were asked to come up with a marketing campaign slogan based on one of the product's attributes and design/carry out an experiment to test the validity of the slogan. Each group of three students was then asked to report out to the class on their findings. Products tested included the absorbency of three popular paper towel brands, the leakage of diapers, and coverage ability of cover-up makeup, and the burning time of birthday candles.



2018 AP Scholars

Curtis, Adrienne E.
Devlin, Natalie A.
Eastwood, Lauren
Grandpre, Abby E.
Griger, Sydney A.
Knight, Whitney S.
MacLeod, Spencer A.
Samson, Robert H.
Speight, Cassandra J.
Swan, Camryn A.

AP Scholar

Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

AP Scholar with Honor

Granted to students who receive 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.

Calcasola, Joseph E.
Catellier, Gina R.
Delskey, Ashlie N.
Eastman, Hadleigh A.
Jewell, Hanna K.
Keeney, Grace M.
Miller, Alex J.

AP Scholar with Distinction

Granted to students who receive 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

Babushkin, Danila

Social Studies Department

The Social Studies department was awarded an SEF grant to acquire historical artifacts to be used in the classroom. This effort will create mobile labs where students can interact with historical materials from a variety of periods in history. The goal is to put historical artifacts in the hands of the students to help them gain a greater understanding of our nation's past. Also, Advanced Placement United States History students are taking a field trip to Boston as a part of their analysis of the American Revolution. Students will learn about major figures such as John Hancock and Samuel Adams and visit major sites from the Boston Massacre to Old North Church. They will take these moments in history and incorporate them into a research paper on the period.

ShopRite Act of Kindness

SHS has teamed up with ShopRite of Enfield to present this award to one high school student each month. On the 3rd Wednesday of the month, a ShopRite representative and myself will come to the recipient's classroom and present the award. The selected student also gets their picture posted in the Enfield ShopRite.

College Financial Aid Night

College Financial Aid Night for junior and senior parents is Monday, October 10th at SHS from 6:30 - 8:30. Suzanne Hanlon from the University of Connecticut will be the presenter.

New Website

Please take some time and visit the site (www.somers.k12.ct.us). The high school site has our teacher directory, which you can access to send emails and/or connect to their Google Classroom for student assignments.

Teacher Recognition: Mr. Phil Goduti

Mr. Goduti was recently published in American National Biography Online, which is published by Oxford University Press. He wrote a short biography on John Doar, who worked with Bobby Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson in the Justice department. He also published a bio on Ted Sorensen, John F. Kennedy's speechwriter. I am attaching the articles if you are interested in reading them.

Farewell Mr. Carroll

Sadly, our assistant principal's last day is October 10th. Mr. Carroll will be taking over as the new principal of Watertown High School. He has been with us for over five years and has done an excellent job for our Spartans. He deserves special acknowledgement for his hard work in the areas of intervention support, the Spartan Code, and our multi-tiered student support system. He will be missed and we wish him the very best.

In Remembrance: Mr. Peter DeSaulnier

Mr. D passed away this past Saturday, peacefully. Mr. D started as a substitute teacher at SHS in 2001. He has continued as a volunteer, coming in 3 days per week to work in the café and monitor the bathrooms. He was always quick to offer encouragement through his quote of the day to anyone in the café or those who gave him a moment when passing by. Mr. D has become a fixture in our building and will be greatly missed. He treasured his time here and getting the opportunity to make an impact on the students who passed through SHS. Service information will be passed along to students once that information is available. Counseling services will be available should you need them as you process this loss in our community. I leave you with one of Mr. D's favorite quotes:

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.” -Aristotle

Donations for a memorial scholarship are being accepted. Please make checks payable to: Somers High School. On memo line: Mr. D's scholarship fund.

Counseling and Career Center Upcoming Events

- October 5th- Dymotek Career Day for students exploring robotics, engineering and manufacturing careers
- October 10th- PSAT/NMSQT administration for 10th and 11th grades
- **October 10th- Financial Aid Night for Parents 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm with Suzanne Hanlon, University of Connecticut Financial Aid**
- **October 18th- Somers High School College Fair 10:30 - 12:00 pm, Parents are encouraged to attend**
- **October 24th- PSAT 9/10 administration for 9th graders**
- October 19th- Accounting is My Major Day, UCONN School of Business fieldtrip
- November 9th- Actuarial & Analytics Career Day at Travelers Insurance fieldtrip
- November 14th- Actuarial & Analytics Career Day at Travelers Insurance at SHS

SHS Band at the Big E

On September 19th, the high school Spartan Band took a trip to the Big E to be a part of the Connecticut Day Parade. This annual trip to perform at the Big-E is one that students always look forward to and includes several band “traditions,” including the “hat-stacking contest” before the parade, where students try to stack as many hats as they can on a single student’s head. This year, senior Eddie Genece passed on the tradition to his successor: freshman Kush Patel. The band played the song Seven Nation Army which garnered a lot of applause from the fair-goers due to its popularity and the energy that the band brought to it. Over the past few years, the band has grown in size to 60 members and sounds stronger than ever!



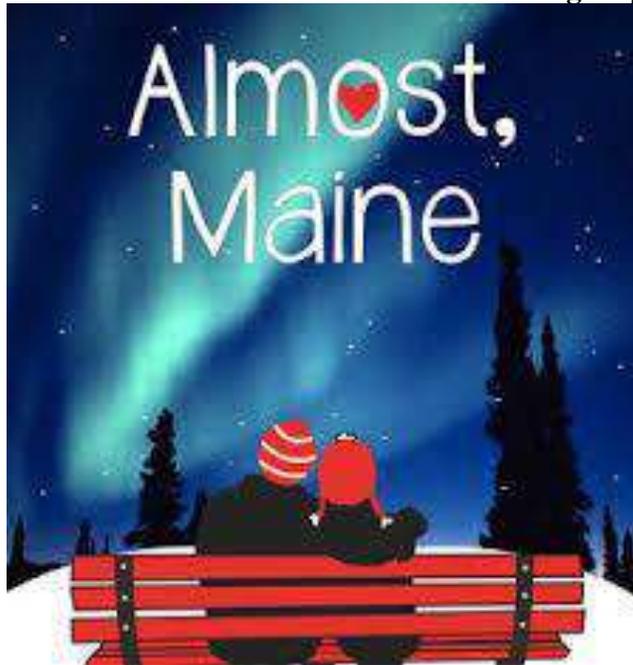
SHS Sports

The 2018 Somers High School fall sports season is nearing the half way point with post-season play starting at the end of the month. The boy's soccer team started the season by winning their first five games, while the girl's soccer team has won three of their first six games. Our annual under-the-lights soccer games will be held on October 15th and 17th. Our field hockey team has completed their first half of the season and is looking forward to playing six of their next eight games at home, including their annual NCCC Play for the Cure game vs. Canton on October 10th. The girl's and boy's cross country teams have completed their only home meet, with the girl's team record at 9-1 after their recent win over defending NCCC champion Canton. Both teams are preparing for the upcoming NCCC Championship meet on October 17th at Bolton High School. Our co-op football team with Stafford and East Windsor has easily won their first four games, and is currently ranked #8 in Class S with important games coming up vs. Granby and Rockville. Finally, our Enfield/Somers girl's co-op swimming team is off a fast start,

including their recent win over Bulkeley where co-captains Alexis Ahluwalia and Madilyn Baer won the 200-yard IM and 100-yard breaststroke respectively. For more sports information and weekly updates, please check the sports page on the district website.

SHS Drama Club

Hello! The Drama Club is happy to announce that rehearsals for *Almost, Maine* are underway! Auditions and casting were held and completed mid September and we couldn't be more excited to work with this wonderful group of students.



At the end of the last school year, Drama Club held auditions for Student Directors for the first time. Each selected Student Director is in charge of directing at least one scene in the nine-scene show. We are very excited to see how the Student Directors personalize their own scene(s)!

**For this show, the setting is a Maine winter, which translates to a very heavy tree population. The Drama Club is asking YOU to let us borrow any green, artificial trees you have. They will be returned back to their owner after December 1st, just in time for the holiday season! Again, the Drama Club is in desperate need for your contributions so, if you have any interest or questions, please do not hesitate to email marika.kraus@somers.k12.ct.us or shsdramact@gmail.com Thank you so much and we hope to see you all at *Almost, Maine* on November 30 and/or December 1!
WE NEED TREES-CAN YOU HELP-WE NEED TREES-CAN YOU HELP-YOU CAN HELP**



Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Bus Transportation

Who do I contact with questions/concerns regarding bus routes and pick up/drop off times?

The bus routes are created by First Student. The First Student Location Manager for Somers is Jonathon Wilkins and below is his contact information:

phone: 860-896-0694

jonathan.wilkins@firstgroup.com

Further, you can contact the First Student Dispatcher (Somers Location) at: 860-749-7957

What if there is a disruption or delay to the bus route?

If there is a disruption or delay that effects the AM bus route, parents/guardians will be notified by First Student via telephone. If there is a disruption or delay to the PM ride, parents/guardians will be notified by the school. School notifications would take the form of either a phone call or via School Messenger.

Who is in charge of bus maintenance?

First Student maintains all buses. All drivers must perform daily “checks” of their buses and report any concerns to the location manager. Additionally, there are monthly checks to ensure all video monitoring systems are working properly and periodic maintenance (multi-point inspection) performed every 90 days.

Who do I contact with a concern about behaviors on the bus?

If you are concerned about bus behaviors or an incident that occurred on the bus, please contact school administration.