



JANUARY 2023

# WAR EAGLE MONTHLY

THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF SFHS

## COUNSELORS

Amy Short,  
Lead Counselor,  
ST-Z, ext. 100622

Michele Vargas,  
All 9th Graders,  
ext. 101120

Courtney Johnson,  
A-DE, ext.100624

Aaron Pileggi,  
DF-KAR, ext. 100628

Tonia Campobenedetto,  
KAS-NG, ext. 100626

Shari Frankel,  
NH-SR, ext. 100625

Naran Butler- Houck  
School Social Worker  
ext. 100452

## GRADE- LEVEL ADMINISTRATORS

9th Grade  
Dr. Wendy Shrader  
ext. 101107

10th Grade  
Scott McCloy  
ext. 101105

11th Grade  
Tom Wolff  
ext. 100117

12th Grade  
Scott Morlanne  
ext. 100109

## NOTEWORTHY DATES

**January 10**

Rising 10th/11th Grade Bootcamp  
6:00-8:00 p.m. - War Eagle Dining Hall

**January 11-12**

Family Connect Nights

**January 16**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday  
No School

**January 24-30**

Elective Registration & Waiver Period

**January 26-28**

Tuck Everlasting Performances  
Jan. 26- 7 p.m.; Jan. 27- 7 p.m.;  
Jan. 28- 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.



For a full list of extracurricular meeting dates and school events, please use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/mryzdf7r>

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# WILSON'S WAR EAGLE UPDATE

Happy New Year, War Eagle Nation.

This month's communication contains a note for seniors followed by an abundance of information surrounding registration. Please read and watch for all communication containing directions and deadlines as we progress through the next several weeks. **\*Please click on the underlined text in this newsletter for links to specific information, forms, and more.\***

## Seniors and families:

The second semester is full of emotions for you and your families. Enjoy every "last" event you are involved with BUT you still have to pass classes to graduate. A total number of credits and specific courses are "HAVE TOs" according to the state of Georgia to receive a diploma. Universities, future employers, and military recruiters view your second-semester performance as an indication of your dedication and commitment to the task at hand. Attendance matters. **There is a hard deadline for Q3 missing work - March 13 - so don't wait too long to get and remain caught up. If you are missing any midterm exams, it is imperative you get them caught up this week as midyear reports are sent to colleges in the next few weeks and the grade change process takes a bit of time.** You want your grades to be accurately reflected when they are sent. Please keep an eye out for the senior page sharing all information relative to senior activities, graduation (see Ms. Duff immediately if you haven't yet paid dues and ordered a cap and gown), and end-of-year processes! Finish strong Class of 2023! Raise the bar and be an example for the underclass students. This is an exciting time! Enjoy every moment!

## Rising 9th-12th Graders:

First, I want to be frank and share that students should create schedules that reflect graduation needs, their passions when choosing electives, and BALANCE. The goal for all students is to be prepared learners when they leave high school and move on to the next phase of their lives. Time for family, friends, and outside-of-school interests are vital to healthy minds. Several thoughts for your consideration and discussion as a family:

- There is more than one route to a destination. No one route is perfect. All routes will have roadblocks which are not the end of the world. All students headed for a similar destination will not get there the same way and therein lies the beauty of choice.
- There are no magic formulas for admission to a university, selection for service, or employment. Beyond course work, true passion for volunteering (not the volume of clubs and organizations on a resume), experiences and learning outside of school related to passions and interests, and soft skills really do matter. Authenticity is the key. Think substance over quantity.
- Burnout in high school does not make for healthy post-secondary success.
- Struggle is not a bad word. Learning from the struggle with content and organization skills emerging is most valuable when family support is there to guide. Eventually, we all struggle with something - better now than when you are not around to lend support and guide response.
- Student engagement in their educational path is critical and directly proportional to student engagement in coursework. Have them choose classes with you by their side!
- While you absolutely know your child the best of anyone, teachers who make recommendations know your child in the classroom setting and see their habits and interest in the subject content. So, while teachers are not the parent with a parent's insight, they recommend students for a course level they believe will offer some challenge but also the best opportunity for success. TRUST the teacher's recommendation. If you decide to waive your student to a more advanced level or drop a level to make room for outside interests and priorities, that will be permitted; however, please know that move is typically final. While we would love to have the flexibility for students to "try out" a course and then change their mind, our master schedule and our finite number of teachers and course sections as well as class size prevent changing in most cases. So, if the work becomes too hard once your child waives up a level or too easy when they slide down a level, refer to the struggle bullet point above and use the situation to help your student take control and learn how to work, seek assistance, and persist through the struggle.
- If grades are more important in your mind than learning, select your level accordingly. We are often asked if a university prefers to see a B or C in an advanced course over an A in a college prep level course - the answer is typically they prefer to see your child in courses they are successful in with a stretch course or two showing willingness to challenge themselves.
- Summer coursework taken online through GAVS or other online providers: While these options are certainly open to you, as a school we have no authority to communicate or influence those instructors. Summer break is intended to be a break from learning and rest for the mind as well as family time. Please consider allowing your child (because adulthood comes soon enough) a break this summer. Also, as you know, South Forsyth holds high academic standards in learning for our students and retains excellent faculty and staff. Online coursework often does not carry the same scope and sequence as our coursework. There is no guarantee of placement to the next highest course for summer work completed. We cannot guarantee face-to-face availability. Also, summer work in math and world languages often finds students who re-enter the classroom lacking key skills. Summer course - 6 weeks versus yearlong course in person - 36 weeks...you get the picture.

Below you will find a host of information that our counseling department has worked extensively to create. You will notice counselors are available to your student many times in many settings for ease of access and convenience. There are parent opportunities as well. Because there are 6 counselors and approximately 2500 students, one-on-one meetings with each student are not feasible. Read carefully the procedures set for communication related to registration for the 2023-24 school year for these have proven most efficient and effective and will be our standard.

Personal emails to counselors related to registration questions will not be prioritized. **Use the system in place.** PLEASE directly contact counselors for all other needs - college admission, mental health, current school year needs and concerns. January through March are remarkably busy times in the counseling world. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

With all of that said, please note a change that will be shared with students in class but that parents absolutely need to know as well. **Missing coursework for the third quarter is due by March 13.** After that date, teachers can review material for feedback purposes but are not obligated to provide a grade. Rationale - students who fail to complete formative work are typically not as successful as though who do; therefore, accepting work for the sake of a grade and not learning weeks and months late will not benefit anyone. Teachers can accept work for a grade past this date but are not obliged to; extenuating circumstances are always granted exceptions.

### **REGISTRATION INFORMATION:**

We understand there are many factors to consider when making decisions regarding course selection and electives. South Forsyth has several resources available to you to address your registration questions. We ask that you review the resources below and participate as needed to ensure your registration questions are answered promptly.

- Check out the [SFHS Registration Information Webpage](#). We are updating the page as information is available, so check frequently!
  - Available courses by grade level
  - Dates for when the elective registration portal and course waiver process will be open
  - Application-based courses
  - Virtual Course information
  - All things registration!
- If your specific question is not answered through the [SFHS Registration Information page](#), please email the South Forsyth Registration Email [sfhs-registration@forsyth.k12.ga.us](mailto:sfhs-registration@forsyth.k12.ga.us) - open from January 9 to April 30. SFHS Counselors are monitoring this email account and will respond quickly.

Need face-to-face time with a school counselor to talk about course registration? Please refer to the multiple opportunities listed below in the Registration Timeline for when/where school counselors will be available to meet with students during the school day.

### **Registration Events**

- January 10 (6:00 PM)- [Rising 10th and Rising 11th Grade Parent Information Night](#)
- January 24 (6:00 PM)- Rising 9th Grade Parent Night will be held at SFHS (more info to come)
- January 25- Rising 9th Grade Meeting with Lakeside Middle School students
- January 26 (12:00 PM & 6:00 PM)- Course Registration Virtual Q&A with Parents (virtual link to join coming soon)
- January 27- Rising 9th Grade Meeting with Piney Grove Middle School students
- January 18- Rising 9th Grade Meeting with South Forsyth Middle School students

## Registration Timeline

### Early January

- Teachers will have conversations with students regarding course recommendations for next school year as they are the subject matter experts and can best advise students about class placement
- Students should familiarize themselves with [Georgia High School Graduation Requirements](#)
- Students should read to learn about the [23-24 SFHS Course Offerings](#) in order to be prepared for course registration

### January 11&13

- Counseling Department will live-stream into IF classrooms to walk students through everything course registration-related

### January 17

- Deadline to apply for the following [Application-Based Courses](#): AP Capstone, IB Diploma, IB Career-Related

### January 24-30

- [Elective Selections](#) portal opens at 8:00 a.m. on January 24th and closes at 4:00 p.m. on January 30th
- [Waiver Form](#) opens at 8:00 a.m. on January 24th and closes at 4:00 p.m. on January 30th
- school counselors will be available in the cafe during all lunch periods for registration questions from students

### January 30

- Deadline to apply for the following [Application-Based Courses](#): Internship Forsyth, Culinary Arts, Yearbook, Peer Facilitation, Directed Study, Journalism, IE2

### February 1- March 7 (Counselor 1-on-1 Meetings)

- ODD Days- school counselors will be posted in East Hall, West Hall, and Main Hall from 8:00-8:25 a.m. to answer registration questions from students
- EVEN Days- school counselors will be posted in the cafe during IF to answer registration questions from students (students must get an IF pass from either the counseling suite or CCC **before** the start of IF)
- This is an excellent time to get your specific course questions answered!

### March 3-7

- Parents and students will be able to view their final course requests for the 2023-2024 school year
- PLEASE NOTE: this is not your student's schedule but just their requests; schedules are built over the summer and will be released towards the end of July

### April 28

- Deadline to apply for the following [Application-Based Courses](#): Dual Enrollment

### MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

- [Summer 2023 Registration](#)
- [2023-2024 Hybrid Registration](#)
- [2023-2024 Full-Time Virtual Registration](#)

We are hosting these registration events for you and your child to participate in and are excited about all our offerings! If you have questions about registration and course selection, please contact the registration email listed above. We are not able to honor any registration-related appointment requests before February 1st.

Happy registering!

Laura Wilson, Principal

# COUNSELING CORNER

Registration for the 2023-2024 school year starts this month and the SFHS Counselors have several resources available to help with course selection and registration questions!

Our Course Registration Website ([2023-2024 Course Registration Information](#)) and our Course Registration Emails ([Rising 9th graders : Michele Vargas](#) , [Rising 10th-12th: Registration Email](#)) are the quickest ways to access immediate answers to all of your registration related questions.

Counselors are also excited to meet with current and future War Eagles to answer all of their course selection and registration related questions through the following face-to-face opportunities:

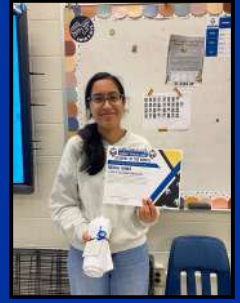
- January 11th and 13th - During IF – Counselors will present a Registration 101 Lesson, please encourage your student to pay close attention for important information!
- January 18th (SFMS), January 25 (LKMS), and January 27 (PGMS) – Counselors and Administrators will present High School 101 to all Rising 9th graders at their respective middle school.
- January 24th – 30th – Counselors will be available in the War Eagle Dining Hall during all lunch shifts to answer any student questions.
- February 1st – March 7th - Odd Days – Counselors will be located in the East, West, and Main Hall Rotundas from 8:00am-8:25am for all registration questions and answers. Even Days- Students can pick up an IF pass in Counseling or the CCC to meet with a counselor in the Café for registration support.

We understand there are many factors to consider when making decisions regarding course selection and electives and your SFHS Counselors look forward to working with everyone in the SoFo Nation!



# Congratulations! WAR EAGLE WAY

Students & Teachers of the Month



Use the link to Nominate a Teacher/Staff Member: <https://tinyurl.com/sfhstotm>



**CROSS  
CHURCH**

Josh Mayo  
Lead Pastor

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