

ADVOCATE

SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE
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DECEMBER 2013

Dual Enrollment

Earning college credit BEFORE you leave SHS

One of the most exciting ventures at SHS this fall has been unfolding the new dual enrollment process. After Mrs. Haskell returned from maternity leave (yippee!), Mrs. Davenport was able to focus on getting this program up and running. Dual enrollment enables students

course; at this time, each student is eligible for two vouchers and is only responsible for the (potential) cost of a textbook. The counselors are thrilled that our students now have this opportunity and we encourage any interested students, or

"This is a tremendous opportunity for high school students to get a jump start on college and for families to save a great deal of money!"

-Patty Davenport, Multiple Pathways Coordinator

to take a course from a participating college and receive both college credit and credit towards their SHS diploma. 11th and 12th graders are eligible for a state voucher which covers the cost of the

inquiring families, to contact the counseling office to speak with their school counselor or with Mrs. Davenport about dual enrollment opportunities.

12th Grade VSAC

Thank you to all the 12th grade students and families who attended the VSAC-sponsored

"Paying for College Night" on November 14th; we had a great turnout and families

School-wide News & Events



Fall drama production: *Taming of the Shrew*. Performed in the SHS auditorium on Dec. 6th and 7th at 7PM and Dec. 8th at 2PM.

Winter Sports are getting underway! Please come into the main office to get paperwork and schedules.

Local Marine CORPS Recruiter available to meet with interested students and families. Contact Staff Sgt. Wolff at 885-8525.

Parent-Counselor Circle underway! Join Jade Costello, Hannah Parker and other SHS parents in the SHS library for a supportive, guided discussion about raising teens. Remaining dates: Dec. 3rd, Dec. 10th, and Dec. 17th at 6:30PM.

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"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." -Nelson Mandela

came with valuable questions. For any 12th graders and families who were not in attendance – don't panic! We have plenty of copies of the VSAC resources in the counseling office and students are welcome to come in and grab them. Also, Mrs. Costello and Mrs. Haskell will be visiting 12th grade English classes and calling down groups of students during the FLEX period (advisory) over the next few weeks to talk about the scholarship booklet. We will be showing students how to use the booklet to get started on applying for scholarships and grants. In the past, the VSAC scholarships have been confusing for some students - attention to detail is important and various awards require different essays, recommendation letters, etc. This year, we are hoping to give the students clear directions and step-by-step guidance so that more SHS students can take advantage of this fantastic financial aid resource.

11th Grade

Intro to Career & College Studies

As a follow-up to the dual

enrollment information that we offered on page 1, Mrs. Davenport is now meeting with 11th graders who are interested in taking an Intro to Career & College Studies course at CCV in the adjacent River Valley Tech Center. Starting in the spring semester, the course will run during 4th block every other day and will help students to explore the skills and expectations necessary to succeed at the college level. Students will develop time management, test-taking, communication, and study skills and will also address stress management and goal setting. The class is free to our students and is a great exploratory tool for those who are nervous or curious about college, as well as for those 11th graders who are excited about the transition and want to hone their post-secondary skills. Students with flexibility in their spring schedule should make an appointment with Mrs. Davenport or their school counselor to discuss this opportunity!

10th Grade

FLEX is a Go

In our September edition of

the Advocate, we wrote about an exciting change that has taken place during advisory time at SHS. Along with the administrators, we are happy to report that the FLEX system is up and running. Students are now able access teachers for extra help, work on missing assignments, and prepare for difficult assessments. Additionally, students who are flourishing academically are able to choose from a wide variety of enrichment activities, including yoga, SAT prep, Dungeons and Dragons, Google Doc training, and mock college interviews. Although this shift affects *all* SHS students, we have found it to be especially helpful for our 10th graders as they make the transition from the 9th Grade Academy. In the academy model, students were required to attend group help nights where they were able to access teachers and get individual help. In the new FLEX system, the students are once again able to have this small group support but now it's during our school day! If families or students have any concerns or feedback about FLEX, please feel free to reach out to a school counselor or to our Athletic Director, Joe

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Brown, who oversaw the implementation of the FLEX system.

9th Grade

GEAR-UP

As a Vermont public high school, we often reap the benefits of the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC). This year, through the VSAC sponsored GEAR-UP grant, all of our 9th grade students are eligible for 21st Century Post-Secondary Education Scholarships! All members of the Class of 2017 are eligible for services such as tutoring, counseling, and mentoring to help prepare for the rigors of college. Students who enroll in an accredited college or university after graduating from SHS will also be eligible for a renewable monetary scholarship to help individuals and families offset the increasing cost of a college education. This is an amazing opportunity for our 9th graders because, in past years, VSAC has not been able to work closely with such a large volume of students. This winter, students and families will be receiving official certificates and letters from VSAC with more information

about the awards and the related opportunities for post-secondary support.

As part of our school's involvement with the GEAR-UP funding, the Class of 2017 will also be part of a testing cohort. At no cost to the school or to Springfield families, students will take one standardized exam per year over the next three years. These exams are designed and scored by the ACT organization and the test results will help students, families, and teachers to better understand the student's academic strengths and deficits. The results will also provide students with insights about post-secondary options and tools for tracking and achieving their post-secondary goals. If you have any questions or concerns about the scholarships or the testing cohort, feel free to contact Jade Costello.

All of the school counselors and our hardworking support staff wish our students and families a safe, happy and relaxing holiday season!

