

ADVOCATE

SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE
885-7914 -- Follow us on Twitter at @CosmoCounselors

June 2014

SHS Summer School

Credit recovery at an affordable cost

For the past few summers, Springfield High School has been able to run an affordable credit recovery program for students who failed certain core classes during the year. This opportunity is available to students who maintained a strong attendance record and received a minimum of 50%

yielded success for nearly all participants; it provides students with a comfortable, small-group setting to improve their skills and solidify their understanding of English, math and science concepts. If you have questions about your student's eligibility for

SHS Summer School

- July 7th through July 31st – Mondays through Thursdays
- \$40 cost per course
- English 9, English 10 and Biology offered in the mornings
- Algebra I and Geometry offered in the afternoons

on the final exam or a 50% average in the class. With the help of a substantial GEAR UP grant from VSAC, families are only asked to pay \$40 per course, a cost that is hundreds of dollars below that of other summer school programs across the state. The SHS summer school program has a strong track record and has

summer school, general questions about the program, or wish to enroll your student in a summer course, please contact the Summer School Director, Jade Costello, before the end of June.

School-wide News & Events



Fall sports begin August 14th (football begins August 11th) - call or visit the main office for schedules and paperwork.

School counselors will be available on August 12th, 13th and 14th to meet with students/families to make scheduling changes. Please email your counselor or call Lisa Allen to set up an appointment.

Students interested in earning community service hours over the summer should email Mrs. Wasyliko, who has put together a list of summer service opportunities.

Counselor Contact Info:

Jade (Dunn) Costello, 885-7912,
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Corrie Haskell, 885-7911,
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Jason Touchette, 885-7910,
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PLPs

Helping Springfield students to set, track and achieve their goals

In response to a state-wide mandate, Springfield High School and Riverside Middle School will begin the process of creating Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs) for students in the fall of 2014. In preparation for this new project, a district-wide PLP committee was formed this spring and is made up of administrators, counselors and teachers. The team has been researching existing PLP programs and collaborating with the Agency of Education to create a timeline and a supportive implementation plan that will make the PLP process as simple as possible for staff, students and families. For families who are not familiar with the concept of Personalized Learning Plans, a PLP is an interactive tool that helps students to identify their academic, personal and career

goals and to track their advancement towards those goals. PLPs also allow for teachers, counselors, and parents to provide insight and reflections regarding the student's strengths, needs and progress. In Vermont, VSAC and Naviance (the college-readiness software the counselors are already using) have teamed up and are preparing to unveil the online PLP tool that our students will begin using next year. Students and staff will be trained on the program next fall and students will be able to establish and update their PLPs in advisory groups. As identified by the PLP committee, our district's customized PLPs will include the following core components: 1) Basic Student Information, 2) Student Learning Profile, 3) Individual Student Goals, 4) Common

Student Goals, 5) Transition Plans, and 6) Reflections from Students and Parents. Having all of this information in one, accessible location will allow students to make clearer connections between their current efforts and behaviors and their ability to achieve future goals. PLPs will also give school staff and families a broader understanding of a student's long-term vision and how we can best support them along the way. Although the PLP roll-out is still in the planning phase, families can expect more details about the timeline and the role of the family in Mr. Thibault's summer letter. In the meantime, if you have questions related to PLPs, feel free to contact Patty Davenport, the Multiple Pathways Coordinator, at pdavenport@ssdvt.org.

Rising 12th Graders

Post-Secondary Reminders

With only two short months until senior year, students should be thinking about some of the small things they can accomplish over the

summer that will help make next fall less stressful. Students who are planning to apply to college, especially those considering applying

Early Action, should have picked up a Senior Packet from Mrs. Costello or Mrs. Haskell and should return it to the counseling office before

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the end of June. This packet of information will give us a head-start on writing counselor recommendation letters for college or career applications. Another thing to keep in mind is that the registration deadline for the September ACT is August 8th and the registration deadline for the October SAT is September 12th. As students are aware, both registrations can be completed online and will be subject to late fees if not submitted by the proper deadlines. Finally, the counselors wanted to recognize the 18 outstanding students who received Junior Book Awards from our department at the underclassmen awards ceremony. Each award is tied to a notable college or university and students are chosen based on how well their skills and work ethic match up with the rigor and the mission of the college. If these students choose to apply to their recognized college, they will have preference in the admissions process and may be eligible for a substantial merit scholarship. Congratulations to Allyssa McCutcheon, Monica Cerniglia, Robert Morancy, Bryne Sidney, David Bryant,

Kaitlyn Stokarski, Allison Naccarato, Jordan Phelps, Scott Lariviere, Blair Crowley, Corrina Nichols, Matthew Whaley, Patrick Clancy, Kyle White, Maygan Daly, Michael Kollman, James Mobus and Lyndsie Cammarata.

Rising 11th Graders Rigor

Although it may seem impossible, rising juniors are headed into the last half of their high school experience. 11th grade holds a great deal of importance in regards to post-secondary planning because junior-year grades are the first piece of information colleges and training programs will see when students are applying in the fall of senior year. For that reason, we urge the Class of 2016 to focus on their long-term goals both when finalizing their course schedules *and* when putting forth academic effort next year. Examples of using student goals to drive academic planning include: 1) if a student plans to apply to a 4-year college, it would be wise to include Chemistry and a 3rd or 4th math course in their schedule, 2) if a student plans to enroll in a technical

welding program after graduation, it might be appropriate to enroll in the Industrial Trades program at RVTC, or 3) if a student is unsure about attending a full-time college but is interested in taking CCV courses part-time, it would be helpful to sign-up for a CCV dual enrollment course to get a better sense of a college curriculum. For all Springfield students, the access to RVTC and college-level dual enrollment courses is a tremendous advantage in exploring rigorous and applicable post-secondary options. The counselors encourage all 11th graders to steer their course selection process around their college and career aspirations.

Rising 10th Graders Connect With Your Counselor

One of the important changes that happens between 9th and 10th grade is a switch in school counselor. In his first year at Springfield High School, Jason Touchette took on the role of counselor for the entire Class of 2017 (as well as a sprinkling of 10th graders); next year he will be keeping a third of his inaugural class

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and the rest will be split up between Jade Costello and Corrie Haskell. This summer, students will receive their schedules for the 2014-15 academic year and those schedules will include the name of their newly assigned counselor. Families and students should communicate with that person in regards to any scheduling changes, general concerns, or questions about the upcoming year. As a department, we realize it can be difficult for students to make a connection with one adult in the building and then be asked to "start over" and turn to someone else for guidance. We try to keep this challenge in mind as we re-assign caseloads and we also communicate with each other about students' strengths, needs and well-being. We strongly encourage all 10th graders to come into our office in August and September to say "hello" and speak to their counselor about their goals for the year and their 9th grade experience. The better we know the students, the better we can support them and connect them with other resources and opportunities.

Rising 9th Graders

First Day

Wednesday, August 27th marks the first day of classes for new students. This day is focused around 9th graders and will give them an opportunity to navigate the building, meet their teachers and learn about the academic and behavioral expectations of SHS. Students should not feel nervous about this event, as they will only be surrounded by their 9th grade cohort and the school will not be open to 10th, 11th and 12th graders. Students will run through a mock schedule of their classes and will also get a chance to participate in fun activities to help them to get to know teachers, support staff, and student leaders. The transition from middle school to high school can be overwhelming and this day seems to relieve some of those anxieties. Students should plan to arrive on-time (first bell rings at 7:45) and prepared for a regular school day. If students have any questions or concerns about the 9th Grade Day, please contact Jason Touchette.

**We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing summer!
See you in (late) August!**

