

High School Highlights

On the web: <http://www.southerncayuga.org>

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SCHS mission statement: The mission of Southern Cayuga High School is to create an environment that is conducive to personal and academic excellence. This will be accomplished by creating a school community that embodies the principles of being: Safe, Respectful, Responsible, and Kind.

SCHS Newsletter

Principal Message

Greetings! It is hard to believe that this newsletter will take us into the holidays. All my best on a joyous holiday season. **A quick reminder that we will hold parent-teacher conferences on 11/5 from 12-5pm and 6-8pm.** If you have not been contacted by your child's teacher and would like to schedule a meeting, please call us at 364-7111 x2114.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on various activities ongoing at SCHS. On 10/1, the SCHS Parent Advisory Council met and discussed the following items:

Home-school communication: This year we will continue with Website updates, SCHS newsletters in each report card, PAC meetings (next meeting is on 12/17). Another way we will communicate to parents and the community is through our broadcast journalism course offered at SCHS. We will post our morning announcements show as well as a daily newsletter each day. The show will contain segments on school announcements, weather, sports, and current events. Both the show and newsletter will be available each day on the HS website via www.southerncayuga.org.

2010-2011 Course Offerings: We are starting to construct our courses for next school year. One large change will be in the offering of college level courses. We will be moving most of our college offerings to SUPA (Syracuse University Project Advance). In my research I am finding that there are a wide-range of courses available through SU at a fraction of the normal cost. Also, SUPA courses transfer extremely well to other colleges/universities. I will outline the courses that will be offered in the 2010-2011 course selection guide in our next newsletter.

SCHS Long-Range Educational Plan: A group representing the HS met early this month to set measurement areas for the High School, grades 9-12. I have included the outlined areas below:

Gr. 9 – 12: cohort passing Regents "gate" exams: ≥ 65 in 4 yrs (%)
Gr. K – 12: % cohort graduating (4 yrs)
Gr. K – 12: % cohort drop out (5 yrs)
Gr. 10- 12: students enrolled in one or more AP, college credit bearing or independent study courses (%)
Gr. 10- 12: students passing one or more AP, college credit bearing or independent study courses (%)

The group also set priority areas to increase our performance in all the measurement areas above from 2009-2012. I will post the entire document on the HS homepage in the next couple of weeks.

Parent Advisory Council

To date, we have held one parent advisory council meeting and will meet again on **12/17 at 6:00 p.m.** The agenda for the next meeting will be posted on the HS website.

As always, if there is anything I can answer or assist with, please do not hesitate to call or email me at 364.7111 or CarnicelliL@southerncayuga.org.

Sincerely,
Luke Carnicelli
SCHS Principal

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SCHS Class Highlights

English (Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Mullarney, Mrs. Poorman, Ms. Perkins)

Approximately 30 seniors from the AP English and College Prep classes have completed and submitted both the Short Response and Personal Statement essays required on the Common Application which is used by a majority of colleges. Students will conference with Mr. Armstrong or other members of the English Department and then revise both pieces prior to submitting them as part of a college application.

As part of the Wells Partnership, students in the College Prep course will have the opportunity to meet monthly with Wells College representatives Susan Sloan, Cindy Speaker and Bryon Duff to discuss topics of concern for all students entering college. The plan is to focus on the following areas this fall and winter: Admissions (November), Registration (December), Residential Life (January). Bernie Degraw and Pat Armstrong will facilitate the program here at SCCS.

Math (Mr. McGarry, Ms. Houseknecht, Mrs. Howell, Ms. Chapman)

Mr. McGarry: Students are currently working on the following units: Calculus - Applications of the Derivative, Math 104 – The Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, Algebra II – Quadratic Inequalities, Geometry – Isosceles Triangle Theorems.

Ms. Houseknecht: In Geometry, we are working on proving triangles congruent, as well as working with triangle interior and exterior angle relationships. In Integrated Algebra, students are just finishing our mini-unit on percents and will be exploring linear functions next. In Intermediate Algebra, we are reviewing operations involving polynomial functions.

Science (Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Lanning, Mr. Scheffler, Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Brennan)

The Chemistry classes are currently studying atomic structure and bonding as a means of understanding the composition of matter. Molecular models, simulations, and drawings help give a visual aspect to the abstract concepts of atoms and the combination of them as building blocks of all substances. Laboratory explorations have included familiarization with the different lab equipment and forming glass tubing into various shapes (such as eyedroppers) for future experiments. Differentiating between chemical and physical properties of substances has also been a priority.

The new Applied Physics class is going well. With a combination of physics theory and practical applications, teams of students just finished their first project utilizing electric powered cars to maneuver an obstacle course and climb a ramp at various inclines. The variety and ingenuity of student ideas were shared through team presentations to the rest of the class as well as a comparison of course time, gear ratios, and power efficiency. Depending on the weather, our next project will either involve predicting altitude, speed, and thrust for student built model rockets and testing them outdoors or the class will begin a series of indoor experiments to predict where a projectile will land. The students must concentrate on careful and complete calculations because their grade depends on how close the projectile lands to their predicted spot. The culmination of this activity has the students constructing a type of cushioning device from 10 sheets of paper and 30 centimeters of tape to keep an egg from breaking after it has been launched both horizontally and vertically.

The Astronomy class recently viewed the simulated night sky on the dome of the Planetarium because the real night sky has been obscured for many evenings. Mr. Alan Ominsky also presented the “Hubble Vision” show to the class in order to demonstrate the sheer magnitude of the Universe and point out the interesting recent discoveries of the space based telescope. Students are involved in a research project regarding planets and moons of our solar system and will report their findings to their classmates. Future plans include a visit to the SCCS Observatory for a talk and demonstration of the school’s telescopes by Mr. Ominsky. Don’t forget to attend the monthly public night at the Planetarium. Check out the SCCS website for dates and times.

Guidance (Ms. Sloan, Mrs. Osborne, Mr. DeGraw)

Ms. Sloan: After an impressive amount of student interest and support in forming a SADD group, we have successfully done so! SADD was created as Students Against Drunk Driving but has expanded its mission and is now titled Students Against Destructive Decisions. “SADD has grown to become the nation’s dominant peer-to-peer youth education and prevention organization with thousands of chapters in middle schools, high schools and colleges” (<http://www.sadd.org/history>). “SADD’s unique approach involves young people delivering education and prevention messages to their peers through school- and community-wide activities and campaigns responsive to the needs of their particular locations” (<http://www.sadd.org/history>).

Throughout September we held our first meeting (with 25 students in attendance!), familiarized students with the national organization, and discussed areas we would like to address. The national SADD organization provides a calendar with monthly themes and as a group we decided to choose one or two topics a month to address. For the first half of October, we displayed attention-grabbing posters and eye-opening statistics throughout the hallways about teen dating violence. In addition, students in the Broadcast Journalism class interviewed the high school principal and school social worker about the importance of SADD. These interviews will be broadcasted on the television screen across from the auditorium. For the second half of October we will be promoting the Red Ribbon Campaign which supports the decision to live a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. We will again be posting images and statistics to prevent drug use and promote a drug-free lifestyle. We hope to bring in young adults to speak to students about their experiences with drug use and its impact. We also plan to involve our School Resource Officer John Nedza in implementing an interactive and educational activity. Friday, October 30th will be Wear Red Day in support of the Red Ribbon Campaign. We look forward to a safe and healthy school year for all.

Mrs. Osborne (school psychologist): As a new faculty member, I wanted to take this opportunity to describe some of the services I provide within the district. I work with students enrolled in both general and special education programs. One of my main duties is evaluation of students with academic, behavioral, social, or emotional concerns. I also collaborate with parents, teachers, and administrators to identify effective solutions to support students with learning or behavior difficulties. I provide both group and individual counseling to assist students in coping with situations that interfere with academic success. This year, I look forward to working with and getting to know the students, parents, and faculty at Southern Cayuga.

SCHS Class Highlights

Foreign Language (LOTE) (Mrs. Herstine & Mrs. Rejman)

French: DID YOU KNOW??? 1) More tourists visit France each year than any other country in the world. Shryock, Richard. "French: The Most Practical Language." 2006-2009. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. 2009. <www.fill.vt.edu/french/whyfrench.html> 2) As years of foreign language study increase, math and verbal SAT scores increase. Children who study a foreign language often have higher standardized test scores in math, reading, and language arts. Foreign language study can help to increase problem-solving skills, memory, and self-discipline.

Lawless, Laura, K. "Reasons to Learn a Foreign Language." 2005-2009. About.Com. 2009. <http://french.about.com/od/francophonie/a/whylearnfrench_p.htm>

French II- We started the year out with a mighty "ARGH Matey" as we read our first full-length French novella about pirates in the Caribbean, a secret map and hidden silver with, of course, a hint of romance thrown in for good measure!

Now that October has come with astonishing speed, we are on to stories and songs about the ghosts and goblins of Halloween à la française.

French III- The first 6 weeks of school have been a brief introduction to the world of French theater, art and cinema for the French III students. What types of films and theater are available? Where would one go to see these productions and the vocabulary associated with them? Each student did a research project on a famous French artist and presented it to the class. Now we are making mini-art card games to review the art work and the artists.

French IV/V – After finishing our first big units in our college course, we are taking a short break to start our quilts. These are the quilts that the older French students make and give to Mrs. Donald to put in the holiday baskets that she so generously hands out around the holidays. If you have any clean cotton material that you would be willing to donate, just drop it off at the high school office marked for the French class. We thank you in advance!

Spanish: The 9th Grade Spanish II students decorated their hallway for The International Day of Peace. They also have finished their first novel of the year.

The 10th Grade Spanish III students have also finished their first novel; they get to show their decorating skills as the Day of the Dead comes nearer.

The Spanish IV students are into their college course, with 100% passing so far.

The Spanish V students have read some authentic documents from the point of view of both the Spaniards and the Aztecs. History can certainly look different when related from differing viewpoints!

Social Studies (Mrs. Casper, Mr. Clapper, Mrs. Newton, Ms. Netti)

9th grade Global History students have just completed their Egyptian projects in which the students chose what they created based on a number of project options.

10th AP World History students completed their French Revolution Banquet activity.

11th grade United States History students are about to begin investigating the Constitution and its provisions.

The 12th grade SUPA Public Affairs class has begun to raise money for their spring trip to Washington D.C. by raising \$600 in a recent can drive. They are making plans to hold a Chicken Barbeque within the next two months.

The fall and spring Local History classes will be traveling on Nov. 2 and 3 to Gettysburg to collect information for this year's class project for the town historians that will highlight the men from the towns of Scipio, Ledyard and Venice who served at the battle.

Art (Ms. Fedorka, Mr. Bakija)

Studio Art students, inspired by the reed pen landscapes of Van Gogh, rendered beautiful pen and ink line drawings with reed pens they made from locally collected reeds. After exploring the sphere in 2-dimensional media, students are now using clay to create a 3-dimensional form with a spherical element.

Studio Art II students combined a variety of papers and paints to create textural mixed media landscapes. They are now enjoying the process of creating blind contour line drawings of animals, adding crazy colors for a bit of whimsy.

Drawing/Painting students took inspiration from patterns in natural objects. Portions of drawings they produced were enlarged for watercolor applications with striking results.

Photography class recently finished pin hole photography and are moving on to camera technology, film processing and development.

Sculpture class constructed giant cardboard insects inspired by sculptor Claes Oldenburg. Students are now working on figurative sculptures based on the work of Italian sculptor Alberto Giacometti.

Graphic Arts students completed elaborate symmetrical circular mandala designs. They are currently working on relief printing.

Band/Chorus (Mr. Harris, Ms. Wadhams, Mr. Veiga)

HS Band: The HS band is working hard preparing for their Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:15 PM. They are preparing five pieces including classics by Ralph Vaughn-Williams and Aaron Copland. The band is also preparing a piece of familiar American marches mixed together with familiar Christmas tunes! We hope to see you there. A parent meeting will be announced soon to discuss possible field trip plans!

Jazz Ensemble: The HS has been meeting on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7 AM since September in preparation for their winter concert on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:15 PM. With twenty members this year the sound is nice and full and it's a complete student ensemble! We look forward to entertaining the audience with some holiday favorites and jazz classics at the winter concert!

Pep Band: The newly formed Pep band will begin meeting soon! The band is designed to play at the varsity basketball games this winter to help pump up the crowd and bring out fans to cheer for the Chiefs! The band is open to students, parents, teachers, and community members alike. If you are interested in joining this group contact Mr. Veiga at

315-364-7111 ex. 2304 or e-mail at veigaa@southern cayuga.org

SCHS Class Highlights

CTE (Mr. Holden, Mr. Bancroft, Ms. Holmes, Mrs. Carter, Mr. Miller)

Wow, it's hard to believe we are already in our eighth week of school! Well, the busier you are the faster the time goes and the CTE department is certainly busy. The newly offered Applied Physics course has hit the floor running, literally. The course, Co-taught by Mr. Scheffler and Mr. Holden involves the students in many hands-on case studies which begin with the mathematical/ science concepts and culminates with a prototypical solution. The first case study, the "Baja Buggy" found student teams working to solve the problem of creating a vehicle that would both negotiate an obstacle course and attempt to break the recently set record of a 50 degree incline. We saw many creative solutions and the teams were able to experience Math and Science in action. The next case study will focus on rocketry and mathematical predictions.

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) is active once again this year. Officers were elected at last week's meeting. The results are: President-Conner Philip; Vice President-Brandon Fairbanks; Secretary-Caitlyn Reeves; and Co-Treasurers-Kathryn Carter and Autumn Kenyon. Twenty-two students will be traveling to Bryant & Stratton College in Syracuse to attend the annual Fall District Meeting where the students will participate in various workshops.

FBLA is planning a trip to New York City in the spring.

The ASTRONS Society made desk plates for the Board of Education Members. Each of our current representatives received a CNC milled wooden placard, with their names etched in Brass. These were distributed as thanks for their support of our programs and the opportunities our students receive. Members Hillary Chidsey, Ian Herford and Alan Wikstrom were there to show their appreciation for the time and commitment the BOE shares with the community.

Ag: FFA – The SC Chapter has recently elected a new officer team consisting of President Patrick Redmond, VP Riley Shurtleff, Treasurer Morgan Pierce, Secretary Olivia Tyrrell, Sentinel Dylan Haskell, Reporter Kathryn Stiadle, Historian Sarah Fessenden, and Student Advisor Mike Poole.

Plant Science students have been designing and preparing hydroponic units to grow common vegetables. Hydroponics means to grow plants with water and not using soil. The hope is to produce garden vegetables year-round for the school's cafeteria.

Production Ag students are planning a fundraiser named "Bucks for Ducks" where they will market and raise ducks from eggs. This fundraiser is designed to show students the steps to complete an intricate project. They hope to incubate in April and sell the ducks in June.

SCHS November/December '09 Calendar

November 1

Daylight Savings Time

November 2

FFA Fundraiser begins

November 5

Half day for students, dismissal 10:55 a.m.

Parent Conferences, 12:00-8 p.m.

November 6

Half day for teachers and students, dismissal at 10:55 a.m.

ACT registration deadline

November 7

SAT

November 9

BOE, 7:00 p.m.

November 11

No School, Veteran's Day

November 12-14

Fall Drama shows, 7:00 p.m.

November 13

Public Astronomy Night

November 19 & 20

Fall All-County

November 23

BOE, 7:00 p.m.

November 25-27

No School, Thanksgiving Recess

December 4

End of the 2nd Marking Period

December 5

SAT

December 7

BOE, 7:00 pm

December 11

Senior Citizen lunch & concert

December 12

ACT

December 16

Report cards mailed home
HS Winter concert, 7:15 a.m.

December 18

Public Astronomy Night

December 24-January 1

Holiday Recess

December 28-31

Cayuga Co. Holiday B-ball T'ment



Southern Cayuga student's essay about Ethiopia takes her All over

By Kelly Voll / The Citizen Friday, October 23, 2009

POPLAR RIDGE - A freshman from Southern Cayuga Central School was one of four students in the state to be selected to discuss world poverty and hunger with well-known experts on the subject.

"I wrote an essay on the food struggles in Ethiopia," said Erin Mattoon, the freshman chosen as a New York state delegate for the World Food Prize Youth Institute. "It centered on the implementation of irrigation, education and genetically engineered seeds."

Mattoon's essay was originally just a class assignment, she said. As she researched more and more about Ethiopia's struggles, she became fascinated with the country and the causes of its poverty.

"They live with drought all year," she said. "I thought irrigation would help that." Mattoon also noticed, through her research, that Ethiopia had few education systems in place, and that the ones that did exist weren't teaching about agriculture.

"There was also the issue of funding irrigation systems," said Mattoon. "Genetically engineered seeds resistant to drought could be less expensive but have the same effect."

Because of her essay, Mattoon was selected to go to Cornell University with 25 other students to read and defend their ideas.

"They picked four out of 26 (at Cornell) to go to Iowa for this and I was one of the four," Mattoon said.

Des Moines is the home of the World Food Prize Foundation. The World Food Prize "recognizes the achievements of individuals who have advanced human development by improving the quality, quantity or availability of food in the world," according to the prize's Web site. The Youth Institute is an offshoot of the World Food Prize, raising awareness of the prize's mission among students.

When students are selected to be delegates at the institute, they participate in a three-day program where they can discuss their research with peers and world-renowned leaders, ministers and ambassadors. Junior and senior high school students who attend the institute are eligible to apply for a fully-paid, eight-week summer internship in a developing nation, said Mattoon. Mattoon, as a freshman, is too young to apply for the internship, but will be eligible to apply later, as a junior or senior, said her mentor teacher Pat Brennan.

Brennan originally assigned some of his students an essay that could be about a global food security issue of their choosing, according to an article written by Brennan and Southern Cayuga High School principal Luke Carnicelli.

"As a class project, it was initially taken on with a little resentment by the students," said Brennan. "But once they got into it, they did very well. It was a very loaded assignment for the beginning of the year, but they met the challenge well."

Brennan registered eight essay writers for the New York Youth Institute, held at Cornell on Sept. 19, according to the article. The result of that day was Mattoon's trip to Iowa. Brennan and Mattoon's parents joined her.

"It was just a tremendous opportunity for Erin," said Brennan. "She is respected by a lot of her peers and will hopefully get her classmates excited about this."

Mattoon was able to take part in roundtable discussions with world-renowned experts on food crises. Speakers at the institute included Bill Gates, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Pepsico CEO Indra Nooyi and many authors, ministers and former presidents from around the world.

"I didn't know a lot about this before, but I went there and heard about all the problems (Ethiopians) are facing," said Mattoon. "It really was enlightening. It has changed my views on the world and may have influenced my future career."



Chet Susslin / The Citizen

Southern Cayuga freshman Erin Mattoon stands outside the school with teacher Pat Brennan Thursday morning. Mattoon was chosen as one of four New York state delegates for the World Food Prize Institute to talk about poverty and hunger around the world with experts.

Internet Safety Tips

According to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, the following are a few tips for parents to be aware of regarding Internet safety:

1. Learn everything you can about computers, the Internet and related technology

- Develop and maintain proficiency through use
- Ask children to demonstrate
- Terminology
- Security

2. Communicate with your children.

- Take time to discuss concerns; agree on ground rules.
- Understand their needs.
- Set reasonable expectations.

3. Place the computer in a “well-trafficked” area, not a child’s bedroom or a secluded area.

- **Ensure that they do not divulge detailed personal information** when completing “profiles” and minimize dissemination.
- Teach children blogging safety tips.
- **Keep ALL accounts in your name.**
- **Know your child’s password(s) and screen name(s).**
- Ensure that screen names do not provide information about his or her identity (e.g., Sarahsweet16.)
- Create and use strong passwords.

4. Consider Use of Computer/Internet Management Software:

- Age-based access levels – Allows for various levels of access for different family members. (View Microsoft Support site for more on how to set parental controls & limit website access and CVC support site set parental controls).
- Filtering and Blocking (incoming and outgoing).
- Time Restrictions.
- Activity Logs - Parents can view logs that list web sites visited, web sites blocked, chat sessions... Software can even capture screen shots and email messages to you if a rule is violated!

SCHS Contact Info.

The following are e-mail contacts for SCHS teachers. You can also leave a voicemail message for a teacher at 364.7111.

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Email</u>
Athletics Dir.	Terry	UNDERWOOD	underwoodt@southern cayuga.org
Physical Education	Cathy	MURRAY	murrayc@southern cayuga.org
Physical Education	Greg	OTIS	otisg@southern cayuga.org
Art	Peter	BAKIJA	bakijap@southern cayuga.org
Art	Mary	FEDOKA	fedorkam@southern cayuga.org
CTE - Agriculture	Andrew	MILLER	millera@southern cayuga.org
CTE - Business	Susan	CARTER	cartersusan@southern cayuga.org
CTE - Business	Maureen	HOLMES	holmesm@southern cayuga.org
CTE- Technology	Matthew	BANCROFT	bancroftm@southern cayuga.org
CTE - Technology	Daniel	HOLDEN	holdend@southern cayuga.org
English-11	William	MULLARNEY	mullarneyw@southern cayuga.org
English-10	Elisha	PERKINS	perkinse@southern cayuga.org
English-9/11	Ann	POORMAN	poormana@southern cayuga.org
English-12	Patrick	ARMSTRONG	armstrongp@southern cayuga.org
French	Beverly	REJMAN	rejmanb@southern cayuga.org
Spanish	Margaret	HERSTINE	herstinem@southern cayuga.org
Librarian	Dawn	SEDORUS	sedorusd@southern cayuga.org
Mathematics	Daniel	MCGARRY	mcgarryd@southern cayuga.org
Mathematics	Ashley	HOUSEKNECHT	houseknechta@southern cayuga.org
Mathematics (MS/HS)	Mary Beth	HOWELL	howellm@southern cayuga.org
Earth Science	Michael	DEMPSEY	dempseym@southern cayuga.org
Physics/Chemistry	Carl	SCHEFFLER	schefflerc@southern cayuga.org
Health	Susan	MACKEY	mackeys@southern cayuga.org
Living Environment	Michele	SHAW	shawm@southern cayuga.org
Living Environment (MS/HS)	Simone	LANNING	lannings@southern cayuga.org
Ag/Science	Patrick	BRENNAN	brennanp@southern cayuga.org
Social Studies-12	Christopher	CLAPPER	clapperc@southern cayuga.org
Social Studies-11	Barbara	CASPER	casperb@southern cayuga.org
Social Studies-10	Victoria	NEWTON	newtonv@southern cayuga.org
Social Studies-9	Julie	NETTI	nettij@southern cayuga.org
Special Education	Steve	WASILESKI	wasileskis@southern cayuga.org
Special Education	Bonnie	SPINGLER	spinglerb@southern cayuga.org
Chorus	Megan	WADHAMS	wadhamsm@southern cayuga.org
Band	Greg	HARRIS	harrisg@southern cayuga.org



Southern Cayuga High School does not restrict students on the basis of race/ethnicity, religion, physical handicap subject to medical eligibility, and gender. This statement will apply to all academic and extracurricular activities.