

High School Highlights

On the web: <http://www.southern cayuga.org/High/HighIndex.htm>

Volume 4 Issue 1

September 2009



Mission Statement: The challenge to the Southern Cayuga CSD is to create an environment that promotes the pursuit of excellence and a lifelong love of learning. This is achieved by encouraging high expectations, self-motivation, self-esteem, and positive values throughout our school community.

SCHS Newsletter

Principal's Message

Hello and welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! For the 9th grade students and families, a special welcome to the High School. I hope the summer break was joyous and restful for you and your family. We will welcome back all students in the Auditorium on September 8, 2009 at 7:45 a.m. Our school day hours will remain the same as last year from 7:45 a.m. to 2:31 p.m.

For the past two years, staff, students, and parents have worked on a vision for the high school. Our work can be summed up with our new mission statement at the high school. It reads:

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.

We will use this philosophy to assist our students toward success.

With the new year upon us, it is important that all students take a few moments to organize themselves for the beginning of the year. In an effort to assist students with organization and the increasing demands of high school we will continue our High School Success program for 9th and 10th grade students. Please see page 7 for an explanation of this mentor program.

This year, same as last, I ask students to have their planner with them at all times except when at lunch. A planner will be provided to each student at no charge. Additional SCHS planners will be available to students for \$2.00 each. I believe that students should keep track of their busy schedule, assignments, events throughout the year, and goals. The planner is an excellent organizational tool that will assist with students daily demands in and outside the classroom and will be used for hall and classroom passes. Included in the planner is the SCCS code of conduct as well as all the policies and expectations at SCHS. I ask that you review this document with your child. A copy of the 2009-2010 SCHS planner can be found via the high school webpage:

<http://www.southern cayuga.org/High/HighIndex.htm>

under the 2009-2010 *student handbook* link on the left column of the page.

It is very important to me that students have an enjoyable and successful year at SCHS. I am a firm believer in setting goals. I ask that you help your child set and develop a plan to achieve their goals. Be sure to discuss your child's progress and familiarize yourself with the SCHS student handbook. You can help your child reach his/her goals by:

1. Reviewing their planner each week to ensure homework assignments are completed.
2. Agreeing on a set time and place for homework completion.
3. Setting up specific times to review your child's weekly or marking period progress.
4. Developing a system of rewards to honor your child's commitment to successfully completing school work.

To assist with school-home communication, I will continue to offer parents/guardians SCHS updates via the SCHS e-mail distribution list as well as the SCHS Parent Advisory Council (PAC). Meeting times for the 2009-2010 school year are listed on the HS homepage. If you are interested in either or both at anytime throughout the year please fill-out the form on page 4 and have your child return it to the HS main office.

Thank you for your time and I very much look forward to working with you and your child this school year. If there is anything I can answer or assist with, please do not hesitate to call or email me at 364.7111 (school)/729.5945 (cell) or CarnicelliL@southern cayuga.org. Also, please visit us on the web at:

<http://www.southern cayuga.org/High/HighIndex.htm> for school announcements, upcoming events, and much more.

Sincerely,
Luke A. Carnicelli, Principal
Southern Cayuga High School

Inside this issue:

<u>Content</u>	<u>Page</u>
SCHS staff contacts	2
New teacher welcome	3
Sept/Oct Calendar	3
Parent Advisory Council	4
SCHS attendance policy	5
SCHS Announcements	6
High School Success	7
School Supplies	8

Southern Cayuga High School
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Aurora, NY 13026

Main office phone: 315.364.7111
Fax: 315.364.8207
Web Address: www.southern cayuga.org

SCHS Newsletter

Guidance Message

Enjoy the last sunny days of summer.

Seniors, within the first couple weeks of school I will be visiting your English classes to review and help implement your college search and planning process. You may want to visit a college over these last couple of weeks this summer in order to improve your search criteria. In addition, remember that you may want to sign up for an ACT or SAT exam to be taken in September or October. You can sign up for those exams online at www.act.org or www.collegeboard.com

If you are interested in taking Driver Education this fall you will need to sign-up in the guidance office from **September 8-11**. The class will meet throughout the first semester after school with Mr. Thorsen as your instructor. There is a fee associated with this class. Thanks and see you soon!

Mr. DeGraw, Guidance

Southern Cayuga High School

DegrawB@southern cayuga.org

SCHS Contact Information

The following are e-mail contacts for SCHS teachers. You can also leave a voicemail message for a teacher at [364.7111](tel:364.7111). **Bold denotes new HS staff member.**

<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	Mary Beth	HOWELL	howellm@southern cayuga.org
Earth Science	Michael	DEMPSEY	dempseym@southern cayuga.org
Physics/Chem/Astro	Carl	SCHEFFLER	schefflerc@southern cayuga.org
Health	Susan	MACKEY	mackeys@southern cayuga.org
Living Environment	Michele	SHAW	shawm@southern cayuga.org
Living Environment	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	WADHAM	wadhamsm@southern cayuga.org
Band	Greg	HARRIS	harrisg@southern cayuga.org
Guidance	Bernie	DeGraw	degrawb@southern cayuga.org
Psychologist	Lindsay	OSBORNE	osbornel@southern cayuga.org

SCHS New Staff

Over the summer we said good-bye to a few teachers that have either moved on, took a leave from our district, or have taken a different position within the district. In their place, SCHS would like to welcome the following new staff members:

Lindsay Osborne: School Psychologist ; Megan Wadhams: Music/Chorus; Martha Laboon: Hall Monitor

I hope you will join me in welcoming these staff members to our school and/or district. I wish them many years of success at Southern Cayuga High School.

The following letter is from Emile Bertram (former Choral/Music teacher):

Dear Southern Cayuga Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Members;

I am writing to let you know that I will not be returning as your vocal and general music teacher. My husband was offered a position in Des Moines, Iowa, and we chose to accept. The decision was very difficult for us to make as we have enjoyed our lives in NY, and I will honestly miss being your teacher.

To my general music students, I hope that even if music is not your favorite subject or your favorite pastime, you will at least enjoy listening to music and appreciate it as an academic art form, and maybe even at some point in your life you will suddenly remember something that crazy music teacher Mrs. Bertram taught you.

To my chorus students, I hope that your love of singing and music will continue through your lives and that you will always be able to find opportunities to share your talents. You have grown greatly in the past three years, so keep striving to improve and become the best you can be, in not only singing, but in all you do.

So, with that, I wish all of you the best of luck in the future. I sincerely wish that I had known about our move before the end of last school year so I could have told you in person, because I know it's never fun to find things out in a letter. I hope that you will welcome your new teacher, although I think you will find her to be quite familiar... If you wish to contact me, you can get my e-mail address from Mr. Harris, Mr. Veiga, or Mrs. Mullarney. I would love to hear from you, so please keep in touch!

Always,
Mrs. Emilie Bertram and Family

SCHS September/October 2009 Calendar

September 8

First day of school for students

September 9

SAT registration deadline

September 12

ACT's

September 14

BOE meeting (7:00 pm)
Senior Class magazine sale begins

September 22

Yearbook pictures

September 24

HS Open House (6:30 - 8:00 pm)

September 25

Public Astronomy Night

September 25 & 26

SCCS Homecoming

September 26

HS Student Council Dance
(8:00 - 10:30 pm)

September 28

BOE meeting (7:00 pm)

October 1

SAT registration deadline

October 5

Senior Class magazine sale ends

October 9

Staff Development Day -
1/2 day for students
Public Astronomy Night

October 10

SAT's

October 12

Columbus Day - No school

October 13 & 26

BOE meeting (7:00 pm)

October 24

ACT's

October 27

Fall Sports Awards 6:30 p.m.

October 28

Report cards mailed home

October 30

Yearbook picture retakes



Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

SCHS Parent Advisory Council

Narrative:

A large part of our success for future years will be geared toward having parents work more closely with the school in support of our mission to raise academic performance in every student. To this end, I would like to begin a Parent Advisory Council. The Council is designed to advise the Principal with strategies that the school staff can assist with the home-school connection.

Charge:

- 1.) To support academics at home
- 2.) To make suggestions for the best ways to communicate with parents
- 3.) To discuss special academic initiatives

Meetings:

The meetings are scheduled for the following dates: **10/1/09, 12/17/09, 2/25/10, 5/20/10**. All meetings will be held in the guidance office from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Agendas for each meeting are sent via email.

Agenda topics or questions for the meetings can be emailed to:
CarnicelliL@southerncayuga.org

***** Please return the bottom portion of this form to the HS main office.***

Parent Interest Information (please circle one or both)

Parent Advisory Council or
SCHS email distribution list

Parent Name: _____

Student Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

SCHS Attendance Policy

Attendance Policy (As stated in the SCHS Student Handbook p. 12-15)

Every student has the right to the education opportunities that will enable the student to develop to his or her fullest potential. To maximize these opportunities, it is the responsibility of the student to be in attendance daily. Southern Cayuga High School is committed to the philosophy that every student should attend every class every day. Regular attendance and promptness are expected in all classes and are essential for student success in school.

ABSENTEEISM

An absence is recorded for each and every occasion that a student is not present in school. Only those students with excused absences will be given the opportunity to make up a class.

Under New York State Education Law Section 3205, parents are responsible for the regular attendance of their children for instruction. State law mandates that students must attend school until the age of 16. **Students must finish the school year upon turning 16 years of age.** Schools are required to code absences (the reason) for the attendance records. When no reliable information is received within a reasonable period, absence will be considered unexcused. Writing an excuse is a privilege allowed to the parent to assure the school that they know their child was absent. (Please see page 13 of the student handbook for excused reasons for absence)

This philosophy is based on the following beliefs:

1. Regular attendance is an important aspect of a student's educational program.
2. The educational process requires a continuity of instruction and active classroom participation.
3. The maximization of student interaction with his or her teacher and peers occurs through regular attendance.
4. Regular attendance is a major component of academic success. It increases student achievement and reduces the drop out rate.

COURSE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students will attend all assigned classes for the entire time the class is in session. A student will be considered in attendance if the student is:

1. Physically present in the classroom or working under the directions of the classroom teacher for over half of the class scheduled meeting time.
2. Working pursuant to an approved independent study program.
3. Receiving approved alternative instruction.

CONSEQUENCES FOR EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM

Credit for any course contingent upon:

1. Meeting attendance requirement.
2. Obtaining a passing grade. In order to receive course credit, a student must be in attendance for a minimum of 85% of all scheduled class meetings. Excused absences (see p. 13 in the student handbook) will not be counted toward the levels below.

Students who fail to attend class and do not meet the minimum attendance requirements may receive an incomplete for that course. These students must audit the class. They will not be allowed to take any examinations. Participation in class course work is entirely voluntary and will not be graded. The following chart indicates the number of student absences (not tardies) at each level. Listed below are the notification, intervention and hearing procedures for each level.

Class Meets:	<u>One Semester</u>	<u>Full Year</u>
Level 1	7	14
Level 2	10	20
Level 3	15	30

CHART FOR ATTENDANCE LEVELS

- Level 1:** Teacher notifies attendance office for verification, teacher discusses with student, and notice sent home.
- Level 2:** Teacher notifies attendance office for verification, calls home, and teacher discusses with student, 2nd letter home.
- Level 3:** Teacher notifies student, attendance ends letter home, and Principal meets with student/family and verifies all student absences. As a result of the meeting the Guidance Counselor may adjust student schedule to audit.
- Notification:** Copies to: Family, Teacher, Principal and Counselor.

**** Please Note: This information above is an abbreviated version of the attendance policy. Please review the policy in its entirety on pages 12-15 in the student handbook.**

NYS & SCCS Diploma Requirements

As you may be aware there are changing diploma requirements from the NYS education department for high school students. Starting with last year's 9th grade class (September 2008), the Local Diploma is no longer available. Our current diploma types in NYS are:

Local (grades 11-12 only), *Regents* (grades 9-12), or *Advanced Regents* (grades 9-12).

For more information on NYS graduation requirements please reference the following website:

http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreq/GradReq3columnStyle7_1.pdf

Also, starting with last year's 9th grade class (September 2008), incoming 9th grade students at SCHS are required to attain 26 HS credits to graduate.



CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED AT SCHS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Students choosing to bring a cell phone to school are asked to keep the phone in their locker throughout the day to avoid any unnecessary distractions. The school is not responsible for any lost/misplaced phones. We will cover the following SCHS policy at the beginning of the school year.

CELL PHONES/TELEPHONES (page 18 in the student handbook)

Students should only use telephones during school hours in cases of emergency with the permission of a secretary or administrator. Being late to any assigned area because of using the phone between periods is not an acceptable excuse.

CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED DURING SCHOOL HOURS. Students who use their phones during school hours are subject to disciplinary actions including confiscation of the phone to Out of School Suspension. 1st offense: Collect phone, return to student at the end of the day; 2nd offense: collect phone, return to parent; 3rd offense: Collect phone, return to parent, ISS; 4th offence: OSS.

Note: If a student fails to turn the phone over to a staff member the student will be subject to ISS or OSS.

SCHS Student Drivers

Attention all Southern Cayuga HS student drivers

All student drivers must have their vehicle registered through the HS main office. All vehicles must be registered either prior to the start of school or during the first week of school. Full details outlining the policy and procedure for student drivers is included within the student handbook.

Please note: All students vehicles must be parked in the front lot to the left of the Planetarium as you enter the drive off of Route 34B. Failure to comply with all driving procedures will result in a loss of driving privileges. (See student handbook)

Also, all students interested in enrolling in fall Driver's Ed must sign-up in the guidance office by September 11, 2009. There is a fee associated with the class.

High School Success Program

I would like to present to you the outline and structure for HSS 9 & 10 at SCHS for the 2009-2010 school year.

High School Success-9

Time: Period 5

Grading: The course is credit bearing. Students will be graded numerically each marking period.

Course Outline: HSS-9 is a mentor/mentee advisement time for all students. This course will occur for all 9th grade students and will assist with needed student skills for success in 9th grade and beyond.

HSS-9 will encompass two levels:

Students in the honors program will be involved in a one semester Leadership course taught by Mr. Brennan. This course will focus on modules that teach students the basis for running and promoting a business using the SCCS Greenhouse. This course will include a partnership with local businesses and guest speakers. The second semester the honors students will be scheduled to take their required HS health class.

In an effort to continue our high level of assistance with student failures and apathy, we will continue with the HSS theme for the remainder of the 9th grade students. The HSS-9 course will be taught by the following faculty with the content taught in parenthesis. Students may rotate to all areas or stay with a teacher mentor to assist with needed skills in a six-week rotation style:

Ms. Carter (Computer Skills/Microsoft Office Training); Ms. Poorman (Literacy skills/ELA organization); Mr. Dempsey (Science Olympiad Skills); Ms. Netti (Test Taking Skills/Social Studies Skills), Ms. Houseknecht (Math/Calculator Skills); Miss Mackey (Nutrition/Healthy Choices — 3 six week rotations- double groupings), Mr. Brennan (Leadership/Business Skills – honors students 1st semester)

High School Success-10

Time: Period 1

Grading: The course is credit bearing. Students will be graded numerically each marking period.

Course Outline: This year, we will expand the HSS program and introduce HSS-10. Also, in an effort to assist students to the highest degree we will introduce teaming at the 10th grade level.

HSS-10 will provide a teacher/advisor or mentor/mentee program to begin at the 10th grade level for many of our students. This course will occur for most 10th grade students and will focus on student skills and occupational education. The HSS-10 course will be taught by the following faculty in a six-week rotation style:

Ms. Perkins (Literacy skills/ELA organization); Ms. Newton (Test taking skills/Global-10 organization); Ms. Holmes (Personal Finance/Money Managing); Ms. Chapman (Graphic Calculator Skills/Math organization); Mr. Bancroft (Broadcast Journalism/Public Speaking), Mr. Benenati (Lab skills/GPS-GIS/Science organization).

As I spoke with students and reviewed data from last school year, HSS-10 will not be offered to students in the honors program. Honors students will be taking an advanced Living Environment course, which is a diploma requirement. Students will then have the ability to take an elective in place of HSS-10.

Should you have any questions on this program please feel free to contact me at 364.7111 x2103. Many thanks for your support of our initiatives as we are striving for each student to be personally and academically successful.

SCHS School Supply List

Science

Earth Science

- 3-ring binder (2") with 12 tabs solely devoted to Earth Science; Loose leaf lined paper; Blue or black pen; #2 pencils
- Basic four function calculator; Blue or black dry erase marker; 3 x 5 index cards; Colored pencils (minimum of 12 colors)
- Highlighter

Living Environment

- 3-ring binder & loose leaf paper; Pencils/pens; Folder for labs

Math

Integrated Algebra & Geometry

- Pencils; Dividers; 3-ring binder (2"-3") & loose leaf paper

College Algebra/Pre-Calculus

- TI84 Plus graphing calculator; Pencils; Dividers; 3-ring binder (2"-3") & loose leaf paper

English

English 9/Honors English 9

- 3-ring binder (1") with 5 dividers & loose leaf paper; 100-page or more spiral notebook; Pens/pencils

English 10, English 10 Honors, English 12 & AP English 12

- 3-ring binder & loose leaf paper; 3 subject notebook; Pens/pencils

English 11

- 3-ring binder (1") with dividers & loose leaf paper; Spiral notebook; Pens/pencils

Social Studies

Global Studies 9 & 10/US History-Gov't:

- 3-ring binder (1½" or 2") & loose leaf paper; Pens/pencils; 5 x 8 lined index cards (US Hist-Gov't)

Keyboarding Communications

- 3-ring binder (1½") & loose leaf paper; Two pocket folder; Pens/pencils

Spanish

Spanish II & Spanish III

- 3-ring binder (2") with dividers & loose leaf paper; Pens/pencils; Floppy disk or memory stick; Highlighter (green preferred); Spanish/English dictionary for at-home use

Spanish IV

- 3-ring binder & loose leaf paper; Pens/pencils; Spanish/English dictionary for at-home use; Two \$40.00 payments (per semester) for the 8 college credits

Spanish V

- 3-ring binder & loose leaf paper; Pens/pencils; Floppy disk or memory stick

Art

- Pencils

Physical Education

- Notebook; Pens/Pencils; Sneakers that tie; Appropriate T-Shirt; Appropriate length shorts; Appropriate Swimsuit

High School Success 9

- 3-ring binder (1") & loose leaf paper; Two pocket folder; Pens/pencils

*****CLASSES NOT LISTED: TEACHERS WILL GIVE THEIR SUPPLY LISTS TO STUDENTS DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL*****