

Volume 3 Issue 1

Summer 2008



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

# High School Highlights

## Principal's Message

Hello and welcome back to another exciting year at SCHS! For the 9<sup>th</sup> 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. School begins on September 3, 2008. Our school day begins at 7:45 a.m. and ends at 2:31 p.m.

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. By the end of the second week of school we ask that all students have their class supplies. Students may purchase class supply needs at our school store located off the cafeteria. A list of class supplies can be found on the High School homepage.

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 \$3.00 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 2008-2009 SCHS planner can be found via the high school webpage: <http://www.southerncayuga.org/High/HighIndex.htm> under the **student handbook** button 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 offer parents/guardians SCHS updates via the SCHS e-mail distribution list as well as the SCHS Parent Advisory Council (PAC), which meets bi-monthly. 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@southerncayuga.org](mailto:CarnicelliL@southerncayuga.org).

Also, please visit us on the web at:

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

Sincerely,

Luke A. Carnicelli, Principal  
Southern Cayuga High School  
[CarnicelliL@southerncayuga.org](mailto:CarnicelliL@southerncayuga.org)

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# SCHS Newsletter

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## 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](http://www.act.org) or [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

If you are interested in taking Driver Education this fall you will need to sign-up in the guidance office on **September 3, 4, or 5**. 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

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## SCHS Contact Information

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The following are e-mail contacts for SCHS teachers. You can also leave a message for a teacher at 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 - Ag/ Science	Patrick	BRENNAN	brennanp@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-10/12	Elisha	PERKINS	perkinse@southern cayuga.org
English-9	Ann	POORMAN	poorman@ southern cayuga.org
English-10/12	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 (LTS)	Stephanie	WITINSKI	witinskis@southern cayuga.org
Earth Science	Michael	DEMPSEY	dempseym@southern cayuga.org
Physics/Chemistry	Carl	SCHEFFLER	schefflerc@southern cayuga.org
Health	Susan	MACEY	mackeys@southern cayuga.org
Living Environment	Michele	SHAW	shawm@southern cayuga.org
Environmental Science	Simone	LANNING	lannings@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	BESNER	besnerv@southern cayuga.org
<b>Social Studies-9</b>	<b>Julie</b>	<b>NETTI</b>	<b>nettij@southern cayuga.org</b>
Special Education	Steve	WASILESKI	wasileskis@southern cayuga.org
<b>Special Education</b>	<b>Bonnie</b>	<b>SPINGLER</b>	<b>spinglerb@southern cayuga.org</b>
<b>Chorus (LTS)</b>	<b>Megan</b>	<b>WATHAMS</b>	<b>wathamsm@southern cayuga.org</b>
<b>Band</b>	<b>Greg</b>	<b>HARRIS</b>	<b>harrisg@southern cayuga.org</b>

# SCHS New Staff

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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:

Julie Netti: Global Studies 9  
Bonnie Spingler: Special Education  
Greg Harris: Band  
Kim Davis-Patton: School Psychologist (LT sub)  
Megan Wathams: Chorus (LT sub)

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.



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## SCHS Upcoming Events 2008

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### September 3

First day of school for students

### September 8

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

### September 13

ACT's

### September 16

Yearbook pictures

### September 22

BOE meeting (7:00 pm)

### September 25

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

### September 26

Public Astronomy Night

### September 26 & 27

SCCS Homecoming

### September 27

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

### October 3

Senior Class magazine sale ends

### October 4

SAT registration deadline

### October 10

HS International Day

### October 13

Columbus Day - No school

### October 14

Yearbook pictures retake

### October 17

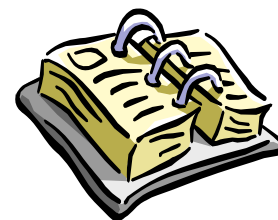
End of 1st Making Period

### October 24

Staff Development Day -  
No School  
Public Astronomy Night

### October 27

BOE meeting (7:00 pm)



# Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

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## *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: 9/25/08, 11/20/08, 1/29/09, 3/26/09, 5/28/09. 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.***

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***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

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## Attendance Policy (As stated in the SCHS Student Handbook)

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.

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. 16 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.

<b>Class Meets:</b>	<b><u>One Semester</u></b>	<b><u>Full Year</u></b>
<b>Level 1</b>	7	14
<b>Level 2</b>	10	20
<b>Level 3</b>	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, 2<sup>nd</sup> letter home.
- Level 3:** Teacher notifies student, attendance sends 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.

# What's new at SCHS?

Throughout the summer, construction was completed at the High School to update the safety and security of our building. Our most notable change is the new entrance to the High School. As you enter the building, during school hours, you will have to sign in upon entering rather than reporting to the office. We also upgraded our phone system; all of our numbers have remained consistent. As you call you will hear different prompts for the phone extensions at each building.

As you may be aware there are changing diploma requirements from the NYS education department for high school students. Starting with this year's 9<sup>th</sup> grade class, the Local Diploma is no longer available. Our current diploma types in NYS are: *Local* (grades 10-12), *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](http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/ciai/gradreq/GradReq3columnStyle7_1.pdf)



In addition to the NYS change, the SCCS BOE (at the 8/4/08 BOE meeting) increased the number of credits needed to graduate from SCCS from 22 to 26 starting with this year's 9<sup>th</sup> grade class (Class of 2012). The reason for this change is to give students the best opportunity to gain knowledge to prepare for life after high school.

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## CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED 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 our school-wide student meeting on September 3rd.

### **TELEPHONES/CELL PHONES (p. 29 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. 1<sup>st</sup> offense: Collect phone, return to student at the end of the day; 2<sup>nd</sup> offense: collect phone, return to parent; 3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Collect phone, return to parent, ISS; 4<sup>th</sup> offense: OSS. Note: If a student fails to turn the phone over to a staff member the student will be subject to ISS or OSS.*

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## 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 5, 2008. There is a fee associated with the class.**