

The Ram Gazette

Southern Garrett High School

Volume 45 Issue 1

Fall 2018

NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Greetings! It is hard to believe that we are already beginning the second quarter of the 2018-2019 school year. Time sure does fly by fast. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone within our school community for the very warm welcome that I have received to the RAMS family. Please know that it has been such a pleasure getting to know your children and our school community over the past few months. Of course my work is not done here as I am still working on building relationships and meeting with several groups.

This is a perfect time for me to share about our Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (P.B.I.S.) initiative being launched this school year. P.B.I.S. is an evidenced based framework that promotes positive interactions amongst students and staff. Teaching and recognizing positive behaviors for all students is foundational to the P.B.I.S. process. The framework includes a systematic approach that supports a positive and predictable environment. To this end, our school has identified school-wide expectations which include: **Respect, Active, Mature, and Safe...Go R.A.M.S.** You will soon see posters and banners designed by one of our students, junior Ty Sisler hanging throughout our building.

The P.B.I.S. team is focusing on increasing school attendance during this school year. We believe that attendance is directly correlated to student performance and ultimately graduation. In order to be **active** in our school, it is essential to be present! Our team has examined attendance trends and have identified a variety of strategies to recognize good attendance. Our students are working on developing a survey that will be administered to the student body later this month in order to gather input about our school-wide incentives. Please be sure to review the attendance policy detailed in this newsletter as well as our P.B.I.S. attendance incentives.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our school office. I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to work together throughout this school year.

Dr. Nicole Miller



PARENT CONFERENCES

*November 5, 2018
10 am-5:30 pm*

The end of the first marking period was Tuesday, October 30th. Report cards will go home with students November 7th.

Parent conferences will be held Monday, November 5th from 10 am-5:30 pm.

There is no school for students on November 5th for parent conferences and on November 6th for Election Day.

RAM Recognitions

CHILD FIND ANNOUNCEMENT

State and Federal laws require that the Garrett County Public Schools provide free and appropriate educational programs for all children with disabilities living in Garrett County.

Services which can be provided by the Board of Education include evaluation and direct services in speech and language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, developmental skills for preschools and academic help for children of school age. These services are provided through the Special Education programs to all students who qualify.

If you know of any individuals with a disability ages birth through twenty-one years of age who are not receiving educational programs, please contact:

Ms. Heather Raybold
 Director of Special Education
 Garrett County Public Schools
 40 South Second Street
 Oakland, MD 21550
 301-334-7655

Student of the month recipients for September were recognized by the school administration. Recipients received a Student of the Month certificate and Ram Bucks which can be used at the school for school events. The Student of the Month program is sponsored by the Foster D. Bittle Chapter of the

National Honor Society and is based on teacher recommendations of students who exhibit a positive attitude, outstanding citizenship, and good work ethic in class. Student of the Month students exemplify the RAMS motto-Respect, Active, Mature and Safe. Additional sponsor of the Student of the Month program was September Ram business partner GCC Technologies.

Junior Lilia Rose was chosen as **Southern Garrett High School's RAM (Random Acts of Maturity) Student of the Month for October**. Rose was chosen by Media Specialist John Coffman for displaying responsibility and dependability as a leader in the morning announcements program. The RAM Student of the Month program recognizes students who exemplify the character and behavioral traits that promote Respect, Active, Mature and Safe. The RAM student is awarded a \$25 gift card to Uno's Restaurant and Grill, the sponsor of the RAM Student of the Month program.



SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE PRESENTS

CIRQUE DU STRANGE

GET INTO IT!

OCTOBER 19 20 26 27

\$5.00 PER RIDE STARTS AT DARK

THE HAUNTED HAYRIDE AT BROADFORD PARK

SOUTHERN GARRETT HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

Disney **NEWSIES** THE MUSICAL

DECEMBER 6, 7, 8

MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN

BOOK BY JACK FELDMAN HARVEY FIERSTEIN

2018-19 SEASON

SOUTHERN GARRETT HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Auditions open to all grades and ages. \$10 Ticket

SHS THEATRE REUNION SHOW AUDITIONS

AUDITION DEADLINE - SEPTEMBER 15

PERFORMANCES MARCH 21-22

SOUTHERN GARRETT HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

BENNY ANDERSSON & BJÖRN ULVÆUS'

MAMMA MIA!

THE MUSICAL WITH ABBA

MAY 9, 10, 11 AT 8PM

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The information below highlights some key parts of our school system's attendance policy. To read the complete policy and procedures regarding attendance please see the Garrett County School's Rights and Responsibilities Handbook:

<https://www.garrettcountyschools.org/resources/pupil-services/pdf/Student-Handbook-2018-19-FINAL.pdf>

- At the high school level, credit is awarded for individual classes. Attendance is recorded by class period as a requirement to earn credit in each class.
- Any student whose total number of absences exceeds eight (8) absences for high school semester classes shall lose credit in those classes. Any student whose total number of unlawful absences exceeds four (4) days in a high school semester class shall lose credit in those classes.
- The affected student and his/her parent/guardian may appeal this ruling to the SGHS attendance committee. If the student and parent can show good and acceptable cause, the committee may override the loss of credit or retention.
- Notes must be submitted no more than three (3) school days after the student's return to school. Notes shall state the reason for the student's absence, the date(s) of absences, and be signed and dated by the student's parent/guardian.
- An attendance investigation will be conducted for any student whose total absences for illness exceed four (4) days or three (3) unlawful absences.

Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's attendance through the parent portal. Attendance is also recorded on our report card cards and progress reports.

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING

After school tutoring will occur on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 3:30-5:00 in the media center. The following teachers are tutoring:

Tuesdays- Sara Shaffer

Thursdays- Dan Graham/Hollie Wund (alternating weeks)

Fridays- Megan Sgaggero

IMPORTANT DATES

Nov 3—Senior Class Big Bucks Bingo 12-4 pm at the Elks

Nov 5—Parent Conferences 10-5:30; No school for students

Nov 6—Election Day (Schools Closed)

Nov 7—Report Cards sent home

November 8—Mandatory Senior Class Meeting-- Graduation and Panoramic

Nov 9—Maryland Youth Risk/Behavior/Tobacco Survey

Nov 13-14—Senior Pictures Make Ups

Nov 15—ASVAB

November 15—Winter sports practice begins

Nov 19—Influenza vaccinations for students

Nov 21—Ram Rumble, Three-hour early dismissal for students

Nov 22-23—Thanksgiving Break (Schools Closed)

Nov 26-Dec 7—Canned Food Drive for the House of Hope

Dec. 3, 2018 – Jan. 18, 2019 PARCC Assessments (Algebra 1, Algebra 2, Geometry, English 10, English 11)

Dec 4 –Underclassmen Make-up Pictures

Dec 5—Three-hour early dismissal for students

Dec 6-8—Theatre II production, *Newsies* 8 pm in cafeteria

December 11-- Concert Band Winter Concert at 7PM in Cafetorium

Dec 21—Powder Puff; Three-hour early dismissal for students

Dec 24-28, 31 & Jan 1—Winter Break (Schools Closed)

January 7- February 1, 2019 High School Assessments Government and HS MISA Science

Important Information Regarding the Use of Electronic Cigarettes

Oct. 25, 2018 Public Information Office

The procedure regarding the use of electronic cigarettes is outlined in the Garrett County Public Schools Student Handbook: Rights, Responsibilities, and Discipline. Please note, under "Tobacco" (page 41), which includes E-Cigarettes, possession and/or use of any device, electronic or otherwise, used to deliver any substance not medically prescribed in accordance with Policy and Procedure 472.12 and 472.13 is a level 2 offense. A report will be made to a law enforcement officer to request a citation, and to Juvenile Services, along with a referral to the MSAP (Maryland Student Assistance Program) team. Counseling or a cessation program may be used and/or an in-school intervention program for up to ten days.

Recently the 2018 Maryland General Assembly passed HB1094. This Bill makes changes to current tobacco and Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) related statutes. Beginning October 1, 2018, a person under the age of 18 may be charged civilly for possessing an ENDS product. Vapes, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), or vaporizers are terms used to describe an electronic system used to smoke a noncombustible flavored solution often containing nicotine. HB1094 imposes penalties for minors using, possessing, obtaining, or attempting to obtain an ENDS product. If minors are found in possession or using an ENDS product, law enforcement may issue a civil citation to the minor and then forward it to the Department of Juvenile Services for further civil action. There is no set fine for the civil violation and any assessed penalties will be at the discretion of the Department of Juvenile Services. In addition to the civil citation, law enforcement will seize the ENDS from the minor and contact the minor's parent / guardian regarding a final disposition of the ENDS.

PBIS INITIATIVE: ATTENDANCE

Our PBIS team has developed an acknowledgement/recognition system to support attendance throughout this school year as we work to increase our attendance rates.

- Monthly Attendance Raffles (starting in November)
 - Raffle 1- Students with perfect attendance (multiple drawings)
 - Raffle 2- Students who have been absent 2 days or less
 - Raffle 3- Students who have shown growth/improvement with chronic absenteeism
 - Raffles could include: gift cards, food from Chef Scardina's Program, parking passes/sporting passes etc.
- Quarterly Incentives (Examples may include events such as: Ram Rumble, Field Day, In School Dance etc.)
 - Criteria for participation:
 - No more than 4 unlawful absences for Quarter 1, 2 and 3 incentives.
 - Criteria for the End of Year incentive is no more than 8 absences for the spring semester (unlawful or lawful).
- School Wide Goals (Monthly): A goal will be set for the whole student body related to class attendance. Once the goal is reached the whole school will earn an incentive. For ex: music during lunch, battle of bands, assembly etc.

Please note: Students will only be eligible for after school privileges such as school dances if they have less than 4 unlawful absences.

Students are developing a survey regarding incentives in order to obtain student input relative to our incentives. Once we collect this information, specific incentives will be determined and advertised.