NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S CORNER

Dear SHS Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already complete with the fall semester and launching full speed ahead into spring. As you know, improving attendance has been a focus for our school this year. Therefore, as we begin the second half of the year it is the perfect time for me to remind everyone of the types of attendance incentives planned by our PBIS team and the participation criteria.

- **Quarterly Incentives** - students are eligible if they have no more than 4 unlawful absences. Our next quarterly incentive will be in March and will be an in-school movie.

- **Monthly Attendance Raffles** for perfect attendance, two days absent or less, and growth in attendance:
  - January Drawing: XBox, iTune, Google Play Gift Cards
  - February Drawing: Gift card
  - March Drawing: Gift cards/prom tickets
  - April Drawing: Gift cards/movie tickets

- **End of Year Raffle** - 3 iPads (students are eligible if they have no more than 5 absences total for Semester 2).

- **End of Year Incentive** - Field Day (students are eligible if they have no more than 8 absences total during 2nd semester).

- **Our Current School Wide Goal for Attendance** - 30,000 classes attended! When we hit this goal, we will have a school wide wrestling match. The better our attendance is in each class the faster we will hit this goal!

Please take a moment to review the attendance policy found on page 3 of this newsletter. Thank you for your support as we work together to ensure all of our students have strong attendance.

PARENT CONFERENCES

March 29, 2019
10 am-5:30 pm

The end of the second marking period was Wednesday, January 23rd.

Report cards went home with students February 4th.

Parent conferences will be held Friday, March 29th from 10 am-5:30 pm. There is no school for students on March 29th for parent conferences.

Teachers will eat lunch from 12:30-1 pm.
Garrett College specialists will be at the high school on Thursday, February 7th at 6:00 pm in the Media Center to explain the benefits of taking college-level dual enrollment classes while still in high school. This information session to explain how Southern students can earn college credits while still in high school is open to all freshman, sophomores, juniors and their parents. Well over 100 county students are currently enrolled in dual enrolled courses in a variety of subjects. These classes provide a significant head start on college and career, improve degree affordability, reduce student debt and are proven to increase graduation rates. All students and parents are encouraged to attend this informative session regardless of academic intent.

One senior and six juniors were recently inducted into the SAT/ACT Hall of Fame at Southern Garrett High School. Senior Maria Walch and juniors Mariah Bolden, Holly Buckley, Michael Brault, Katherine Catulle and William Meagher and Zach Rohrbaugh scored a 1200 or above on a recent administration of the SAT and/or a 26 or higher on a recent administration of the ACT. Hall of Fame members receive a free athletic pass for the year and their name is placed on a perpetual plaque in the media center.

Junior Josh Boatman was chosen as Southern Garrett High School’s RAM (Random Acts of Maturity) Student of the Month in November for displaying citizenship in the classroom and in school activities. Sophomore Ashlee Casey and junior Andie Ward were chosen as RAM Students of the Month in December for displaying caring and giving in the classroom and with student groups. Sophomore Kyus Spencer was chosen as RAM Student of the Month in January for displaying justice, fairness and equality in the classroom.
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

Feb 4— Report Cards sent home
Feb 15— Three-hour early dismissal for students
Feb 16—Winter Homecoming Dance
Feb 18— Presidents Day (SCHOOLS ARE IN SESSION)
Mar 14— Three-hour early dismissal for students
Mar 21-22—Theatre Reunion Show: Little Shop of Horrors, 9 am in school performance on SHS stage
Mar 21-23—Theatre Reunion Show: Little Shop of Horrors, 8 pm public performance on SHS stage
Mar 29— Parent Conferences 10-5:30; No school for students; Teacher’s lunch 12:30-1pm
Apr 1—End of third quarter
Apr 5—Blood Drive
Apr 6—Student Arts Fair
Apr 7— National Honor Society Induction, 2 pm
Apr 8—Report Cards sent home
Apr 10-14—Marching Band Trip to Walt Disney World
Apr 19—Good Friday (Schools Closed)
Apr 22—Easter Monday (Schools Closed)
Apr 27—Prom at The Wisp
Apr 27-28 —After Prom at the CARC
Apr 30— Three-hour early dismissal for students
May 9-11—Theatre II production, Mamma Mia 8 pm public performance on SHS stage
May 17-18—Senior Trip
May 27—Memorial Day (Schools Closed)
June 1—Graduation at the CARC
Introducing the 2019 Cool Schools Dunk! For the first time, you can #DoTheDunk with your school! Come on out and take a daring dip into Deep Creek Lake with your teachers and classmates. All funds raised support Garrett County and the Unified Sports programs. To participate students must raise a minimum of $50.00.

To get started:
1. Head to www.coolschoolsdunk.com and click “Join a Team”
2. Select Team Southern High School from the drop down
3. Select Cools Schools: Pay or Fundraise and complete registration

To participate in the Cool Schools Dunk, students must return the following items by February 18, 2019:

1. Signed Special Olympics Waiver
2. Signed Field Trip form
3. Any checks received as a donation towards the required $50.00 donation (we encourage donations to be made online)

On the day of the Cool Schools Dunk, students must bring the following:

1. Special Olympic Sweatshirt (this will be given to you the week of the dunk)
2. Dunk bracelet (this will also be given to you the week of the dunk)
3. Closed toe shoes or water shoes to wear into the lake
4. Towel
5. Dry clothes
6. Bag for wet clothes

Wednesday, February 22, 2017
11:00 AM
www.coolschoolsdunk.com
Southern High School welcomes Mr. Ed Wildesen back as Interim Vice Principal starting Feb. 4, 2019. He will be filling in for Mr. Lear who has accepted the position of Director of Adult Education and Workforce Development at Garrett College until the end of this school year. Mr. Wildesen formerly was a history teacher and administrator at Southern High School before moving to the GCPS Board of Education as Director of Transportation for six years before retiring. Mr. Wildesen also spent 9 years as Head Baseball Coach at Garrett College. He resides in Oakland with his wife Jane Wildesen.