Good evening Falcon Families!!

Congratulations!! Two full weeks are finished and the end of August is a breath away. This past week, we announced our plan to provide the PSAT and SAT to our Juniors and Seniors, respectively. Unfortunately, this plan is very much dependent on State and County Public Health Guidelines, the ability to have students come to campus in large groups, and no more natural disasters! The call for volunteers was impressively met, with 73 people expressing interest in volunteering for the PSAT and 116 people expressing interest in volunteering for the SAT. Next steps will include hosting a fingerprinting night and more information will be provided for the completion of volunteer applications.

Tuesday night, at the LGSUHSD Board Meeting, as a part of the inaugural "Student Celebration" part of the agenda, Samika Agarwal was recognized for her achievement of earning first place in the Congressional Art Contest. Samika’s piece was selected unanimously by the judges and will be exhibited in the Canon Tunnel of the US Capitol.

Next week, the Guidance Counselors and Administrators will begin two weeks worth of grade level parent information nights, with the Seniors on Tuesday, September 1, Juniors on Thursday, September 3, Sophomores on Tuesday, September 8, and Freshmen on Thursday, September 10. All presentations will be virtual and will begin at 7pm. The links are further down in this Friday Letter.

I hope everything is settling down for our staff, students, and families and this weekend bring calm and time to recover.

Best wishes,

Greg Louie, Principal
Congratulations to Niyanth Rao: YMCA “Youth Volunteer of the Year”
Niyanth Rao was recently awarded the South Valley YMCA “Youth Volunteer of the Year” award. This is for his efforts with starting and running the Almaden Valley Math Club. Niyanth started this as an outreach effort aimed at middle schoolers to foster an enthusiasm for problem-solving by focusing on non-standard Math problems. Currently, about 50 students attend the weekly sessions, which are held on weekends via Zoom.

Saratoga High School Drama Department Film Festival
The SHS Drama department is looking for directors, cinematographers, script-writers, location scouts, production managers, lighting designers, and audio designers. Students can do multiple jobs if they wish (i.e. act in one short and be cinematographer for another short). Interviews for all roles EXCEPT actors are on September 16th from 2 pm- 5 pm. Use https://lgsuhsd.zoom.us/j/98639884758 zoom link to join. Email PM Taylor Zhou at zhot4032@lgsstudent.org for a 15 minute interview slot. You must email to get a slot or you will be placed at the back of the line.

Pediatric Volunteer Project Request
Natalie Tjahadi, Class of 2020 graduate, is involved with an organization called UnitedCARE, which is dedicated to providing resources and support during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through her role as a recruitment volunteer for the UnitedCARE program, Natalie would love to spread the word about this volunteer opportunity to parents, children, and staff at SHS. The main project that she and her team are developing is called the Pediatric Video Project to help kids in pediatric hospital units. Most hospitals are no longer allowing volunteers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For many children, having visitors is the highlight of their day. They want to continue this kind of interaction virtually because they believe social interaction is vital for a happy and healthy life. Currently, they are creating a library of videos that will be uploaded to a server for these pediatric patients to watch at any point in the day. So far, they have partnered with over 15 hospitals, including the Ryan Seacrest Foundation, and collected around 180 videos.

They are currently looking for anyone, including students, parents, and staff, to help them expand this video library. The children watching these videos range in age from babies to 18 year olds, so they are looking for creative content. Some examples of videos include: reading children’s books, singing a song, showing how to make a craft, painting or drawing, teaching a dance, playing an instrument, playing a game, a magic trick, etc. They are open to any ideas! They also have a pretty comprehensive website that has information, as well as sample videos: http://tinyurl.com/unitedcare.

If students are interested, below are the steps for getting involved. All of this information, some examples of videos from the library, and a list of video ideas can all be found on their website. To get involved:
1. Fill out the survey embedded in the website or use the following link.
2. Check out our list of video ideas, or come up with your own!
3. Take your video and do one of the following:
   ● Upload it to the Google Forms submission box
   ● Send it via email at unitedcarecontact@gmail.com
   ● Share the video on Google Drive using the above email address
4. Sign the consent form (found on the website) so that they have permission to share your video!
Senior Class Fundraiser: SHS Facemasks
Falcon face masks are up on the school webstore! Seniors, show some school spirit and support this fundraiser here is the webstore link: https://shs.myschoolcentral.com/

Freshman Class Officer Election Results
Congratulations to our new Freshman Class President, Scot Rich, Freshman Vice President, Taylor Chu, and Freshman Representative, Skylar Dyal. We look forward to watching how they lead the Class of 2024!

Class T-shirts (deadline is Sept 4)
Buy your class t-shirt to wear in our virtual class activities to win gift cards and prizes! Each class office designed their t-shirt and use the t-shirt sales as one of the largest fundraisers for the class. Please support your class by buying a t-shirt at the webstore.

“After Hours” Hangout for Students (bring your pets!)
The Leadership students are hosting a virtual hangout, open to any students who are interested in visiting, chatting, and talking to other students. There is no agenda, no goofy videos, no surveys in this group. It will be a place for students to drop in and interact with other students to share experiences, laugh, and just enjoy each other’s company. “After Hours” begins at 4pm on Tuesday on Zoom.

Rally “Dillydallydonutfinalie”
Rally Commission is hosting a virtual rally game involving 4 students, 4 teachers, and 8 Roses large donuts! Watch social media for the release of the video next week.

Virtual Guidance Grade Level Parent Nights
Our Guidance team and Administrators will be hosting virtual Guidance Grade Level Parent Nights in September. Please mark your calendars. Click below for the appropriate Zoom webinar link.

- Virtual Guidance Senior Parent Night, Tuesday, September 1, 7pm-8:30pm
- Virtual Guidance Junior Parent Night, Thursday, September 3, 7pm-8:30pm
- Virtual Guidance Sophomore Parent Night, Tuesday, September 8, 7pm-8:30pm
- Virtual Guidance Freshman Parent Night, Thursday, September 10, 7pm-8:30pm
Virtual College Visits
Colleges, wishing to speak with SHS students, are setting up virtual College Visits in Naviance. The two daily time slots are during Lunch (12:55 to 1:25) and after school (3:00 to 3:30) with the Zoom meeting link listed in the Naviance calendar. These meetings will be supervised by SHS staff. Students can check the Naviance calendar to see when colleges are visiting SHS. Additionally, colleges have information on their websites about virtual opportunities they are offering directly to students.

PSAT Exam Registration Open for Juniors
SHS is offering the PSAT to our Juniors on Saturday, October 17. Due to the school closure and current restrictions, we are only planning to offer the PSAT to Juniors.

Registration Window: August 26, 4:00 pm to September 11, 11:59 pm
Exam Cost: $30
Total Registration student login: www.TotalRegistration.net/PSAT/053343

No refunds allowed after September 14, 2020. If the PSAT at SHS is canceled for any reason, exam fees will be rolled over to the next available test date or refunded to students.

SAT Exam Registration Open for Seniors
SHS is offering the SAT School Day administration to our Seniors on Wednesday, October 14. Due to the school closure and current restrictions, we are only planning to offer the SAT to Seniors. Per College Board restrictions, we are not allowed to offer SAT Subject tests on a School Day Exam administration.

Registration Window: August 27, 4:00 pm to September 11, 11:59 pm
Exam Cost: $120
RegiSmart SAT registration (create account): https://regismart.net/#/login

No refunds allowed after September 14, 2020. If the SAT at SHS is canceled for any reason, exam fees will be rolled over to the next available test date or refunded to students.

AP Exams: Payment Open in September
SHS will start accepting payments for AP exams in September. For May 2021 testing, each exam will cost $120 due to an increase from the College Board. Like last year, students will need to pay on the Total Registration website and enroll on their College Board account for SHS to purchase an exam. Additional details will be included in future Friday Letters.

Free or Reduced Lunch Application Reminder
Applications for free or reduced-price lunch need to be completed each year to renew eligibility. For eligibility information, click here: Eligibility Information. To apply, please go to the Titan portal either through the link from your Aeries home page or at this address: https://family.titank12.com/ and fill out the online application.

SPEECH & DEBATE Parent Meeting (DRAMA Parents: you’re invited too!)
Coach Rector invites you to join him on Saturday, August 29 at 9am for our initial parent kick-off meeting. If you are interested in joining the Saratoga High School Speech and Debate Club, please join us for this Saturday’s introductory parent meeting via this ZoomLink. Also check out the Saratoga SD Website https://saratogahighsd.club/ for registration.
ATTENTION DRAMA STUDENTS!
Are you looking for an additional outlet to exercise your performance itch? Speech and Debate offers you a platform to deliver Humorous and Dramatic Pieces, Duo Pieces, and Original Performances of your own writing! Come and perform (virtually of course) as part of the Saratoga High Speech and Debate Club! Join Mr Rector's ZoomMeeting on Tuesday, September 1st during Office Hours to find out more!

SARATOGA MUSIC BOOSTERS (SMB) Cares Fundraiser
SMB CARES… Support the SMB campaign to give back to our community who’s been stretched in every way recently!!
- Donate a $10 Starbucks card or $25 gift card (Starbucks / Grocery) to say thank you to our healthcare workers at Valley Medical Center, San Jose
- Donate a $25 Grocery gift card until Sept 4, to help families displaced by the recent fires - coordinated through Prince of Peace Church, Saratoga

Donate here SMB Store

An amount from each donation will go to support SMB.

* SMB supports the music programs at both SHS and SUSD to enrich the music education of our students.
* SMB… TOGAther STRONG

Student Attendance Reminder
As a reminder to parents/guardians when calling in an absence for a student, please spell the last name of your student, provide your student’s ID number, and identify the period number if you are calling due to connectivity issues. If your student was present in class but was marked absent, they need to contact the teacher to verify they were present. The teacher will then clear the absence through the Attendance office. This will help our Attendance staff to be more efficient when messages are received.

Remote Learning Technology Needs
Families with additional technology needs are encouraged to email techsupport@lgsuhsd.org or call an Administrator. All of our SHS students should be able to connect to live instruction, participate with their peers, and use their webcam.

School Supplies/Textbook Pickup
School supplies and textbooks can be picked up or dropped off at the Textbook Room (next to the library) from 12pm-3pm, Monday through Friday. If you have any textbook or school supply questions, feel free to contact Mr. Torrens at mtorrens@lgsuhsd.org.

If you have been out of the Santa Cruz or Santa Clara Counties the past two weeks or in quarantine, please do not come onto campus. Instead, please contact Mr. Torrens at mtorrens@lgsuhsd.org. We will make arrangements with you to either park and we deliver the books to your car or we make other arrangements, as needed.
School Closure Guidance Counselor FAQ
Guidance counselors regularly update an FAQ during this school closure period. Check it out!

Remote Learning Student and Parent Guide
Please review our Remote Learning Student and Parent Guide for Fall 2020. This guide has timely information and resources as we start the school year.