Friday Letter: August 30, 2019

Good afternoon!!

This has been a busy week!! Fall Sports meetings for women’s tennis, women’s water polo, cross country, and field hockey were Monday night, the LGSUHSD Board Meeting was Tuesday night, Wednesday was our first of five morning collaborations, Booster leadership attended a “Booster Group Training” to better understand the legality regarding donations, Administrators visited the Health classes to lead class discussions and make presentations about bullying and cyberbullying, and our first School Site Council meeting of the year was on Thursday! Tonight, our football team travels to Gunderson High School for the first non-league game of the year. Due to low participation numbers for both JV teams and to help manage player safety, the normal 10 minute quarters played during a JV game will be abbreviated to 7 minute quarters.

Here are a few campus updates:

Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

With all eyes on our upcoming Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Self-Study, the staff and students of Saratoga High School committed the first Morning Collaboration of the year (Wednesday, August 28) to working in home groups and evidence collection, which will guide the writing for Chapter III: “Self-Study Finding.” Each member of the home group shared out the mandate of their “Focus Group”.

In addition, each member explained what evidence was needed to complete the examination of our strengths and weaknesses. On September 10th, Home Groups will meet with their evidence and examine it so that they can begin to identify our strengths and “Prioritized Areas of Growth Needs from Categories A through E” by analyzing the evidence collected, the student survey responses, and our work together.

Just Learn It. Campaign

Today marked our first announcement of recognition for the “Just Learn It.” campaign, which focuses on encouraging and nurturing grit and growth mindset. This week’s two winners are Shreyas R. and Bereket B. Each week, we will recognize one or two winners and award them with a $5 gift card to Starbucks, Yogurtland, and other merchants frequented by our students. Students can be a part of the “Just Learn It.” raffle by demonstrating their perseverance, hard work, determination, and focus on learning. Staff who recognize these fantastic, life-long traits can give the student a “Just Learn It.” card and students can take the signed card to the Student Wellness Center to drop it into the raffle tumbler.
INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIORS

Beginning next week, in an effort to help curb vaping and “juuling” in the student restrooms and on campus, exterior restroom doors will be propped open. Student privacy will be maintained, but by propping the exterior door open, staff, campus supervisors, and Administration can walk by to listen for and effectively enter the restrooms to recognize inappropriate behaviors that are harmful to their health. In addition, anti-vaping posters will be displayed in the restrooms.

Recently, we have received reports of items being stolen or vandalized. We had a car keyed, a bike stolen, a couple of Chromebooks have gone missing, and a wireless microphone. Please ensure your bicycles are locked properly in the designated areas and please keep an eye on your belongings. We can not guarantee the safety of your items.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

After we return from the Labor Day Holiday, we have a litany of fantastic events for our students and parents/guardians:

- **Tuesday, September 3 and Wednesday, September 4:**
  - **Club Days** during lunch in the quad (only for students). This is a great time to find a club of interest to round out your high school experience and/or to be involved in the community. Tuesday will be “Academic” Clubs and Wednesday will be Service & Arts/Cultural” Clubs.

- **Tuesday, September 3:**
  - **Senior Parent Guidance Information Meeting**, 7pm in the McAfee Theater. Learn more about your last and best year of high school from your amazing class officers, guidance counselors, administrative team, and class officers! Brian Safine and Monique Young will discuss calendar highlights, college application logistics and the best way to frame your future
  - **SHS Speech and Debate Meeting**, 6pm in the school library. Our head coach, Mr. Rector, will be there to provide parents the overview of the program and answer any questions. The parent booster committee will help you with the membership registration and answer the booster related questions. The Coast Forensics League Demo Day is on Saturday, September 7th at Los Altos HS. Our practices starts on the second week of September. All announcement emails by boosters and coaches will come through the google group. We recommend all parents and students to join their respective groups to receive communication.
    - Parents Group: [SD parent google group](https://saratogahighsd.club/)
    - Students Group: [SD student google group](https://saratogahighsd.club/)

Please visit the Speech and Debate website at [https://saratogahighsd.club/](https://saratogahighsd.club/) to stay up to date on the club.
**Thursday, September 5:**
- **Volleyball vs. Scotts Valley**, JV 5pm/ Varsity 6:15pm in the large gym. Tickets are:
  - $6.00 for General Admission;
  - $3.00 for students with high school ID, Sr. Citizens and Children 6-12 accompanied by an adult;
  - Free for Children 5 and under
- **Freshman Movie Night**, 6pm in the Student Center. Freshman are welcome to come and watch the movie, “Radio Rebel,” eat free popcorn, and brainstorm ideas for Homecoming decorations.
- **Junior Parent Guidance Information Meeting**, 7pm in the McAfee Theater. Junior class officers will share their plans for the year. Matt Torrens and Alinna Satake will share calendar items for the semester and focus on goals for both students and parents for the junior year, as well as addressing standardized testing and college/post-secondary planning questions.

**Friday, September 6:**
- **Football vs. Silver Creek**, JV 4:30pm/ Varsity 7pm. Tickets are:
  - $8 General admission;
  - $5 students with high school ID, Sr. Citizens and Children 6-12
  - Free for Children 5 and under

**Tuesday, September 10:**
- **Morning Collaboration Schedule** (future dates are 9/24, 11/5, and 12/3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff Collaboration</th>
<th>8:00am-8:50am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd period</td>
<td>9:00am-10:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial</td>
<td>10:30am-11:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passing Period</td>
<td>11:00am-11:10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th period</td>
<td>11:10am-12:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th period</td>
<td>1:25pm-2:55pm</td>
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- **Sophomore Parent Guidance Information Meeting**, 7pm in the McAfee Theater. Highlights from the school calendar, messages about what the focus for sophomore students should be, and a quick look into what class officers have planned for the year will be covered in the first 30 minutes. Learn more about upcoming events, graduation requirements, and Naviance from the admin/counselor partnership of Kerry Mohnike and Frances Saiki for the second 30 minutes.

**Thursday, September 12:**
- **Freshmen Parent Guidance Information Meeting**, 7pm in the McAfee Theater. Your first official guidance night as a 9th grade parent! Class officers, guidance counselors and administrators will familiarize you with school events, school
systems and tips for a successful year.

As a reminder, RED and BLUE DAYS For the week of September 2-6:

a.) NO SCHOOL on Monday, September 2 (LABOR DAY)
b.) RED DAYS are Tuesday, September 3 and Thursday, September 5
c.) BLUE DAYS are Wednesday, September 4, and Friday, September 6

Falcons Nest Cafe Corner:
The themed salad bar for the week of September 3 is "SOUTHWEST". A large salad is $4.00 and small $3.00. Add a cup of diced chicken for $.50.

I hope everyone enjoys the three day weekend.

Thank you,

Greg Louie, Principal