

HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Friday - 7:00 am - 3:00 pm



19 Stage Road

Westhampton, MA 01027

Phone: 527-7680

Website: www.hrhs.net

Newsletter

November/December 2007

From the Principal

The 2007 MCAS test scores have been released. Our tested students, 7th, 8th, and 10th graders, continue to make progress in the English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics exams. In recent years, our tenth grade students have some of the highest scores in ELA and mathematics in the Pioneer Valley. In an article in the October 5th Republican, Hampshire Regional ranked 7th on the Composite Point Index (CPI) scores for tenth graders in ELA and mathematics of the 57 high schools listed. The CPI measures how close a school is to having all students reach the proficient level on MCAS scores. The federal goal under No Child Left Behind is to have all students reach a Proficient or Advanced score by 2014, giving the school a CPI score of 100. For the 2007 exams, HRHS 10th graders had a combined CPI score of 95.5 in ELA and 93.4 in mathematics.

Despite the fact that our subgroups made significant progress, we missed the state target by 1/10th of a point in mathematics. As a result of not meeting the state target for two consecutive years (all groups met the target in the 2006 testing), rather than moving out of needs improvement Hampshire Regional has been placed in "Corrective Action."

Corrective action status requires that we work on our School Improvement Plan to identify the corrective measures we will take to improve all student MCAS scores, with particular attention paid to the special education subgroup in mathematics.

The main features of our revised School Improvement Plan include: map all courses at Hampshire Regional to ensure alignment with the state frameworks; continue to offer math remediation classes to students in 7th, 8th, and 10th grade; hire a math tutor to work with our student population beginning in January; continue the work of aligning our math curriculum K - 12, with a focus on improving the transition from sending elementary schools to Hampshire Regional; provide professional development to teachers to support them in helping our students to prepare for the MCAS exams; and explore using our new student tutoring program, The Learning Center, to provide high school student tutors for our middle school students who need academic support.

All of these efforts will help our students make progress on the MCAS exams. If you have a question or comment on your student's individual results, feel free to contact the school office.

Celebrating Teaching and Learning

Congratulations to members of the Academic Society. Current members are **Dominique Bruso, Robin Clark, Jonathan Hawkes, Timothy Korpita, Myles McCarthy, Beth Moriarity, Sean O'Hare, Sadie Prickett, and Kellie Welch.** New members inducted at a ceremony October 17 are **Chris Brida, Graham Lawson, Thomas Alexander, Samuel Antill, Evan Baum, Michael Boucher, Marissa Dombkowski, Marissa Feldberg, Matthew Furman, Benjamin Hanson, Cara Haxo, Katherine Himmelman, Lauren Howe, Sarah O'Connor, Adam Parsons, Brian Patterson, and Caitlin Sarazin.**

Seniors **Timothy Korpita** and **Myles McCarthy** are commended students in the 2008 National Merit Program. Commended students are recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on the qualifying test. Commended students place among the top five percent of the 1.4 million students who took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

Art teacher **Warren Smith** had a piece of work selected for the "It's Only Clay" national juried competition and exhibition held October 5 - 27 at the Bemidji Community center in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Guidance Coordinator **Sally Masters** received the 2007 Human Rights Award from the Massachusetts School Counselors Association (MASCA). Sally was recognized for her work with the school's gay straight alliance and for her promoting human rights in the broader community.

It is with gratitude that the Hampshire Regional High School community bids goodbye to **Mrs. Anita Goddard.** Ms. Goddard has served with distinction as the Library Media Specialist for twenty years at HRHS. She is retiring at the end of October.

Beginning this school year, the HRHS faculty and staff have been nominating members of the class of 2008 as Senior of the Week. A Senior of the Week is nominated on the basis of their leadership, character, cooperation, and service to the community. In recognition of the accomplishments of these students, a parking space in front of the high school has been reserved for their personal use for a period of one week. Thus far, the Senior of the Week has been awarded to **Sadie Prickett, Laura Brown, Jill Fink, Rushelle Papineau, Nick Rogala,**

The mission of Hampshire Regional High School is to empower students to be capable and confident and prepared to meet the challenges of life. In partnership with our five towns, we create a supportive and respectful environment that fosters cooperation, critical thinking, and creativity. We encourage our students to explore opportunities that develop the knowledge and skills needed to be life-long learners and responsible participants in society.

Tanner Watson, Melissa Tavares, Blayne Lapan, John Hawkes, David DeJordy, and Sean O'Hare.

Introducing Attendance Notification to Parents

Hampshire Regional will be enhancing our School to Parent communications with our new automated Attendance Notification system starting in November. The system will automatically call the student's home if your child has been marked absent from school. Remember to call the attendance line @ 527-7680 ext. 1 to report your child absent or tardy from school. Thank you.

School Council

The Hampshire Regional School Council usually meets the third Wednesday of each month from 4:30 – 5:30 PM in the Library Media Center. Community members are encouraged to attend and participate. The Council is responsible for developing our school improvement plan. A major focus of our work this year will be to use the results from the student survey, the NEASC recommendations, and our MCAS scores to revise our school improvement plan. Because of the holiday the November Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28. All students, parents, and faculty are invited to attend.

Foreign Language Week for French students.

Jean Gowdey and Michèle Higgins from the Foreign Language Dept. have developed a sequential, cultural activity program for each French student. Last year, 7th grade and high school French 1 students chose a French speaking place, other than France, to study. Algeria, Burkina Faso, Guadeloupe, Luxembourg, Québec and Sénégal were among those randomly selected. This year, these same students will create a more in-depth project concerning a famous building, monument or landmark in their "country". A written and oral presentation will be made in class (en français) during Massachusetts Foreign Language Week, the first full week of March 2008. The current 7th grade and high school French 1 students will just be starting their adventure for the first time. In subsequent years, students will continue to research other aspects of these francophone countries in more depth and detail. As students carry this portfolio to their highest level of French, it is hoped that they will become resident experts with a wealth of new information about their adopted country.

Community Service Update

Hampshire Regional High School has a graduation requirement for 30 hours of community service, 15 hours in social science classes and 15 hours during the junior year. The goals of this requirement are to promote caring, contributing citizens; to make abstract knowledge relevant; and to contribute something of value to the greater Hampshire Regional community.

Students will benefit in many ways, because community service gives them opportunities to make decisions and plan in advance; it requires skills that relate directly to the skills needed for the work place; and it teaches personal, social, and civic responsibility. These are important values as our young people prepare to graduate from high school, and your support can help. Students need to know that you approve of learning by doing, and we can always use suggestions for relevant activities or contacts within the school district.

Ninth graders will receive information from their social studies teachers, and their community service work will be factored into their grades for the year. In October, seniors were given

information in their homerooms with details about their requirements and timelines. Sophomores and juniors will receive information in their homerooms in November.

Community service should be listed as a class on report cards beginning in junior year, and a current tally of hours earned will appear each quarter. Community service opportunities are listed on the school website.

For the class of 2008, the deadline for completing community service hours will be March 7.

Juniors wishing to become eligible for membership in the Academic Society must have their community service completed and documented by January 24.

Fundraiser for the Peer Educators

The Peer Educators group is selling dinner tickets to OPA OPA Steakhouse in Southampton. Tickets are being sold for \$25.00 and includes a choice of three dinner options. Your choice of soup or salad, choice of potato and vegetable, soft drinks and a dessert. The date of the dinner is Monday, December 3rd. The proceeds of this fundraiser will go towards the planned initiatives for this upcoming year which includes tuition costs for CPR instructor course, Prom Safety initiative, bullying and harassment awareness and peer teaching within the elementary schools and building relationships between the high school and middle/elementary level students. We are in need of financial support to help defray the costs for these activities. We hope that you can help us in our efforts to facilitate these crucial activities. If anyone is interested in supporting the Peer Educators group by purchasing a dinner ticket, please contact Natalie Levreault at Hampshire Regional High School at 527-7680 ext. 1037. Thank you in advance for your support.

Class of 2008 News

- Yearbooks \$68.00 before Halloween- Name will be put on the front cover
- After Halloween Yearbooks will be \$72.00 - NO NAMES will be on them
- College Applications - Get them turned in to the Guidance Office.
- Grad Nite April 17- 20, 2008.

Senior Bundle #1

- High Meadows All Day Picnic and bus \$47.00
- Senior BBQ Northampton Clarion Outdoor Pavilion and Pool \$35.00
- Class T-Shirt **Short** Sleeve \$15.00
- Cap and Gown \$20.00
- Total Price **\$117.00**

Senior Discount Price for those who are all paid up through Junior year **\$95.00** Check made out to HRHS **before winter break** to get the discounted price.

Senior Bundle #2

- High Meadows All Day Picnic and bus \$47.00
- Senior BBQ Northampton Clarion Outdoor Pavilion and Pool \$35.00
- Class T-Shirt **Long** Sleeve \$20.00
- Cap and Gown \$20.00
- Total Price **\$122.00**

Senior Discount Price for those who are all paid up through their junior year **\$100.00** Check made payable to HRHS **before winter break** to get the discounted price.

Class of 2010 News

Students placed orders for class rings in September with our Jostens sales representative. Students can still order class rings through the mail using the order form provided in their envelopes, or online at jostens.com.

Sophomores will have a Ring Breakfast during period 1 on Friday, November 30, 2007, in the high school cafeteria. Our Jostens sales representative will be there to pass out rings and assist students with their purchases. **All sophomores are invited** whether or not they purchased a class ring, **EXCEPT sophomores who did not pay their freshmen class dues last year or sophomores who owe money for the freshmen Entertainment Books fundraiser last year.** There are about 30 sophomores who owe their class money from last year. If they pay last year's money **before** Friday, November 30, 2007 then they may attend the Ring Breakfast. A list of those students is posted on each of their homeroom doors.

Ms. Carpenter & Ms. Barut, *Co-Advisors to the Class of 2010* (413) 527-7680 ext. 1042 or 2039 kcarpenter@hr-k12.org or tbarut@hr-k12.org

FBLA New

The FBLA trip to New York City is Wednesday, March 5, 2008. The group will spend some time in Times Square, have lunch together at the Hard Rock Café' and then see Hairspray on Broadway. Tickets are \$92.00 and are going fast. Buy your ticket today. Students must have their FBLA dues of \$15.00 paid in order to go on the trip. Checks can be made payable to HRHS and should be given to Laura Fecteau.

From the Nurse's Office

Hampshire Regional High School will offer physicals for students planning to participate in winter sports. Dr. Victoria Pillard, the HRHS physician will be available during the school day on Tuesday, November 6th.

According to Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association rules, a student participating in athletics must have a physical examination within thirteen months of the start of the sport season. For example: in order for a student to participate in a winter sport, the student must have a physical between October 26, 2006 and the present. Physicals do not expire during the season of play.

For additional information or to make an appointment please contact the school nurse, Kathy Swiderski, RN at 527-7680.

There is always a need for substitute nurses at the high school. You must be a registered nurse. If there is anyone who might be interested, please call the high school for an application.

Booster Club News

The HRHS drawstring backpacks have arrived. They are selling for \$10.00 and will be sold throughout the year while supplies last:

- at home sporting events
- at school from your athletic director, Ann Trytko

- emailing the booster club @ hrhsboosters@hr-k12.org

Attn: Girls Soccer Parents

As students graduate, we look for parent volunteers to replace the senior parents. Next fall we will be looking for a Volunteer to help with the Snack Shack for the girl's home games. If interested in finding out more details, email the booster club @ hrhsboosters@hr-k12.org or call Barb Prickett @ 527-5799. Thank you.

News and Notes from the Athletic Department

Please note the following important dates:

11/1 Mandatory Winter Sports Mtg, 6:30 in the Auditorium
11/6 Sports physicals, given by school physician
(Sign-up required by 11/2)

11/19 Fall Sports Banquet 6:00 in the cafeteria

These events have been listed on the school website since early October. Updates or changes can be found on the "Athletics" main page.

Congratulations go out to Varsity Boys Basketball Coach **Claudinor Salomao**. "Coach Sal" has been named the recipient of the Division 2 West Boys Basketball Coach of the Year by the Massachusetts Basketball Coaches Association. He will be honored at a banquet at Holy Cross College on November 18th. We are proud and fortunate to have Coach Salomao on our staff.

PTSO News

The PTSO has calendars for sale which feature student artwork and important school dates for the 2007-2008 school year. They are available in the school's main office for \$10 apiece.

A potluck dinner for seventh graders and their families will take place on Thursday, November 15, from 6-8 PM in the cafeteria. A flyer with details will be given out in homerooms.

The spring musical will be "Fiddler On The Roof". Performances are scheduled for March 14th and 15th.

Middle school parents should fill out the school directory form that appears at the end of this newsletter and return it to the school office.*

Meetings of the Hampshire Regional Parent-Teacher-Student Organization are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month, from 6-7:30 PM in the school library. Details are available on the school website. This is your organization, so get involved.

Vocational News

In accordance to state law, the towns of Chesterfield, Goshen, Southampton, Westhampton and Williamsburg and the Hampshire Regional School District, will provide an opportunity for interested students to attend vocational schools. It is important that the deadlines which appear in the guidance section of the school newsletter be followed.

The Hampshire Regional School Committee recognizes Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton, Massachusetts, as its out-of-district vocational school.

Important Dates

November

- 1 - Mandatory Winter Spts. Mtg. 6:30 Aud.
- 2 - Cross Country Pasta Pack 6PM Caf.
- 2 - End of Quarter 1
- 5 - HR School Comm 7PM Lib. Med. Ctr.
- 6 - LEEP Parent Night 6PM Lib. Med. Ctr.
- 7 - HS & MS Chorus/Band Concert 7PM Aud.
- 8 - LEEP Parent Night 6:45 PM Lib. Med. Ctr.
- 12 - No School Veteran's Day
- 15 - Report Cards go home
- 15 - PTSO Potluck 6-8 PM Caf.
- 16 - Black & White dance 7-10PM Gymnasium
- 19 - Fall Sports Banquet 5PM Caf.
- 21 - Half Day Dismissal 11AM
- 22, 23 Thanksgiving Break
- 28 - School Council 4:30 – 5:30 Lib. Med. Ctr.
- 28 - PTSO 6PM Lib. Med. Ctr.
- 30 - Sophomore Ring breakfast Per. 1 Caf.

December

- 3 - HR School Committee 7PM Lib. Med. Ctr.
- 12 - Delayed Start – Classes start 10:42AM
- 14 - Progress Reports go home
- 13,14,15 - Drama Performance 7PM Auditorium
- 19 - School Council 4:30 Lib. Med. Ctr.
- 19 - PTSO 6PM Lib. Med. Ctr.
- 24-1/1/08 Winter vacation
- 25 - HRHS offices closed

Dear Middle School Parents,

In response to parent requests, the PTSO is compiling a directory of middle school students and families to be shared among the seventh and eighth grade classes. If you wish to be included and have not already returned a form, please fill out the form below and return it to the school's main office. The deadline for inclusion will be November 28.

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Parents' Names _____

GUIDANCE NEWS

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2007

FINANCIAL AID NIGHT

A Financial Aid Seminar geared toward seniors and their parents/guardians will be held Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the HRHS Auditorium (with a snow date of Thursday, December 6th). Although geared toward seniors and their parents, **all** students and parents/guardians are welcome to attend. Ms. Elizabeth Petri, the Director of Financial Aid at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, will be our guest presenter for this workshop.

COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

Patti Richmond, Sally Masters George Gunn, High School Guidance Counselors, and Nicole Fernald, guidance intern, met with the senior class in September to go over the procedures for the college application process. Thank you to the great group of parents/guardians who attended this first period meeting on their way to work. Parents/guardians of current seniors were mailed an information packet regarding the college application process the week after the meeting. The most important detail to be aware of at this time is that seniors must request any materials that need to be sent from Guidance (transcript, letter of recommendation from the Guidance Counselor, etc.) a **minimum of 12 FULL school days** before the deadline. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

Upcoming College Application Deadlines:

<u>College App. Deadline</u>	<u>Guidance Deadline</u>
November 1	October 12
November 15	October 26
December 1	November 7
December 15	November 20
January 1	December 4
January 15	December 17

Your student will be receiving a post card in homeroom notifying him/her when his/her application materials have been mailed from guidance. If you are notified by the college that they are missing transcripts, recommendation letters, etc., please call the college and ask them to visibly check your student's file. In the last 7 years, there has not been one instance where the materials were not mailed out by guidance. Guidance documents the mailing of all application materials. If you call Ms. Monaghan, the guidance administrative assistant, she can tell you exactly when the materials were mailed.

On **October 30th**, guidance counselors and interns will be available in the Career Center all day to help seniors with applications. All students are welcome to come for help during their study halls.

SAT'S

Please note the following dates with accompanying registration deadlines for upcoming SAT's:

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>
Dec. 1, 2007	Oct. 30, 2007
Jan. 26, 2008	Dec. 26, 2007
Mar. 1, 2008	Jan. 29, 2008
May 3, 2008	Apr. 1, 2008
June 7, 2008	May 6, 2008

The best way to register is online at www.collegeboard.com. You will need the school code to register: 220722.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL INFO

Students interested in vocational schools: In November, an admissions counselor from Smith Vocational will come in to meet with interested students. *Students interested in vocational high school for the 2008-2009 school year will need to fill out a budget form before the December school vacation.* More information will follow in upcoming announcements.

NEW STUDENTS GROUP

During September and October, Nicole Fernald and Mandy Cheung, graduate interns in Guidance, met with new students on an individual basis to check in with them. Being new to a school can be a challenging experience so the interns worked with each student to ensure that they were acclimating well to their new school surroundings. These individual meetings were capped off with small group meetings that had the following goals:

1. To provide a safe place to share experiences as new students
2. To get to know other new students and receive support from each other
3. To develop strategies to navigate the school building, learn about after school activities and learn about school culture.

Thanks to Todd Dennis and Pizza, Wings, and Things for donating pizza for the new student group's final meeting.

ADOLESCENTS COPING WITH DEPRESSION

The School Psychologist and Adjustment Counselor are considering offering a Group Treatment Program called Adolescents Coping with Depression.

Depression is a debilitating disorder that seriously affects the lives of hundreds of thousands of teenagers in the United States. Bouts of clinical depression also place the adolescent at risk for a number of associated problems such as academic difficulties and suicide. In addition, social withdrawal and the other obstacles to social functioning that often accompany the disorder have a dramatic impact on many aspects of the adolescent's life at a critical time in his or her development. Although episodes of clinical depression may gradually subside, the likelihood that these episodes and/or depressive symptoms will recur is extremely high unless there is some kind of intervention.

This treatment program is conducted with groups of four to eight participants who are 14 to 18 years of age, and the vehicle for therapy is a class entitled the "Adolescent Coping with Depression Course." During these sessions the adolescents learn essential skills for overcoming depression. The areas covered are relaxation, pleasant events, irrational and negative thoughts, social skills, communication, and problem solving. Several different methods of instruction are employed: lectures by the group leader, discussions, role-playing exercises, and homework assignments. Research on the efficacy of the treatment program has demonstrated that more than 70% of the adolescents who have participated in the course are significantly improved one month after termination, and that these gains are maintained up to 12 months after treatment.

If you would like to refer your student for this program, or if you have questions about it, contact Jan Sniffen, or Leslie Giordano.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, SCHOLARSHIPS, ETC.

A reminder for parents/guardians, and students applying to private schools.....this excerpt is taken from the HRHS Student-Family Handbook: "Students, parents or guardians who request a letter(s) of recommendation from any staff person for application to a private high school, college, scholarship, or for any other reason must make the request a **minimum** of twelve full school days in advance of the deadline." Thank you.

WEBSITE

Please be sure to check the HRHS website on a regular basis to keep up to date on what's happening in Guidance. You'll find the latest on the college application process, upcoming events, college representative visits to HRHS, scholarships, etc. Go to the Guidance menu at the top of the website screen and click on Up-Coming Events for the latest information; click on the College-Bound link under Guidance to get to the Scholarships page.

THANK YOU

The guidance department would like to thank senior Melissa Tavares who is doing an internship in guidance this year for her great work. She has cleaned out and reorganized the Career Center, organized scholarships, created advertising for college representative visits, and more. She is doing phenomenal work and getting a good taste of what it is like to work in a high school guidance office. Thank you, Melissa!

PEER MEDIATION

Peer Mediation is a program that has been growing over the past three years at Hampshire Regional Middle / High School. Mediation is the voluntary, peaceful resolution of disputes or conflicts in which one or more neutral parties act as Mediators. Katie Watkins and Patti Richmond (Guidance Counselors) are the co-advisors. The following students have been trained to provide a safe, scripted, confidential, structured process to assist other students in conflict to end disputes peacefully by reaching mutually acceptable agreements: **Grade 10:** Kathleen O'Connor, Ashley Quinn, Kerri Laberge, Zach Swanson, Lauren McGrath, Emma Topor. **Grade 9:** Jaimilee Bontempi, Bobby Dragon, Brenden Hatzipetro, Katelyn Hurley and Kayla Fappiano. **Grade 8:** Melanie Bachteler, Liz Labrie, Peter Larsen, Nate Ghareeb, Cindy Morton, and Katherine McKemmie.

COUNSELORS ASSIGNMENTS/MEETINGS

This is a reminder that Mr. Gunn has taken on a caseload this year and that has changed high school counselor assignments to
Patti Richmond: last names A – Ka
George Gunn: last names Ke – Mi
Sally Masters: last names Mo – Z
Mr. Gunn is available daily until approximately 11:30 a.m.

High school counselors are in the process of meeting individually with seniors to discuss post-graduation plans and assist with the college application process. In early October, high school counselors and the UMass interns met with all 9th graders in their World History classes to introduce themselves and provide an orientation to guidance services. In addition, counselors are meeting with 9th and 10th graders individually for check-ins. Counselors will meet individually with juniors in the spring during the scheduling process. Katie Watkins, Middle School Guidance Counselor, met with all 7th graders in their team classes in September and will meet with all 7th graders individually before the end of the school year. As always, if students have questions, concerns or a specific need, they are encouraged to make an appointment to see their counselor.