

PISA Blazin' News

S P O T S W O O D H I G H S C H O O L

PRINCIPAL LETTER



Dear Blazer Parents,

Happy New Year! The New Year has brought us some new recognition and a renewal of our commitment to our students, parents and community.

SHS has been named as a recipient of the:

2010 Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award

Seventeen school divisions and 281 schools earned the Board of Education Competence to Excellence Award for having met all state and federal benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and are making progress toward the goals of the governor and the board.

The Effective Schoolwide Discipline Committee is sponsoring a program to improve student daily attendance. Our goal is to have students at school over 95% of the 180 days of instruction. During the next 6-week grading period beginning January 25th students who miss less than 2 days of school will be invited to an ice cream social. Those students will also be eligible to receive a \$50.00 visa gift card.

School Attendance: Issues to Consider

By GreatSchools Staff (www.GreatSchools.org)

Successful schools begin by engaging students and making sure they come to school regularly. That may seem obvious. What's less obvious is that the consequences of low attendance are serious for all children and for the community, not just the students who miss school. School attendance data on GreatSchools.org (which comes from the state Department of Education) gives you baseline information on the quality of a school.

The attendance rate is important because students are more likely to succeed in academics when they attend school consistently. It's difficult for the teacher and the class to build their skills and progress if a large number of students are frequently absent. In addition to falling behind in academics, students who are not in school on a regular basis are more likely to get into trouble with the law and cause problems in their communities.

A 2008 study conducted by the Rodel Community Scholars at Arizona State University that tracked students from kindergarten through high school found that dropout patterns were linked with poor attendance, beginning in kindergarten.

School budgets may suffer when students don't attend. In many states, school budgets are based on the average daily attendance at a school. If many students enrolled at a school fail to consistently attend, the school has less money to pay for essential classroom needs.

This is an exciting place to be and I want to thank you all for your help and support.

Sincerely,

Seth Muraskin
Principal

Newsletter Design
by SHS Desktop
Publishing Student,
Paola Hernandez

BASKETBALL

BOYS AND GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL GAMES

We appreciate the support that everyone has given thus far for the Boys and Girls Basketball teams. Remember that there are 3 more double-header games left:

Tuesday, 2/2 vs. Harrisonburg at Spotswood

Friday, 2/5 vs. Broadway at Broadway

Friday, 2/12 vs. TA at Spotswood

Boys Varsity start at 6pm, followed by the Girls Varsity!

The support so far has been AWESOME. Especially from our "6th Man" the Blazer Crew. Our student section is the best around. Keep it rolling!! We love when you're at our games standing behind our teams!!



2010

SENIOR NEWS

Remember to order you caps and gowns and graduation items if you have not already done so. Caps and gowns are all that are required to participate in the ceremony, and these may be borrowed. Orders can be placed at www.valleygradserv.com or by calling (540) 444-7323.

TALENT SHOW

Mark your calenders for the upcoming SHS Talent Show! On March 24th the SHS diversity committee is hosting a talent show starting at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. The show will be hosted

by senior Cole Trower and Ms. Kate McDonald and will include music and fun performed by a variety of SHS students. The diversity committee will also be collecting donations for

a display case that can showcase the diversity of our SHS community. Hope to see you there!



PTSA NEWS

Hello to all! The school year is half over and we are busy making plans for our biggest event of the year—**BLAZER**

BASH. For those of you not familiar with this event, it is an alcohol/drug free after-prom celebration. After dining and dancing at JMU's ballroom, students can go to UREC and enjoy many different activities from 12AM-3AM. We provide prizes, food, and fun!! **We need your support to make this happen** so please contact one of us and offer what you can---time, money, donations---we need it all! We are particularly desperate for volunteers to solicit donations from local merchants. Our next meeting is February 17, 2010 at 5:30pm in the SHS library. Please get involved!!

On February 15, we plan to treat the faculty and staff to a "cookie" day. If you are interested in donating something, please contact Eliot Westwood at cedkw@aol.com or 289-6383.

Remember to sign up for Martin's!! It's not too late. Since early December, we've had over 50 people sign up!! Go to martinsaplus.com and designate Spotswood High School!! Earn money for our school!

In addition, if you have a Target Red Card, designate Spotswood High School and we also earn \$\$!



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

The Virginia PTA is offering a scholarship. Students must plan to pursue a career in teaching or other youth-serving professions. They also must plan to enter a Virginia college or university in September 2010, have a GPA of 2.5 or better, and demonstrate financial need and academic achievement. See our guidance department or visit vapta.org and search for scholarships. Applications are due to guidance February 24, 2010.

The SHS PTSA is also offering a scholarship. See the guidance department for information. An essay on community service is required and the deadline for entry is April 30, 2010.

SHS's Effective School Discipline (ESD) team is looking for someone to help solicit donations from local merchants and parents. If you can help them, please contact one of us listed below. If you would just like to make a donation of a gift card or cash, also contact one of us to arrange pick up. This program looks to reward students for positive behaviors. Students receive a small treat for positive referrals and their names are placed in a drawing for a bigger prize. These are drawn once every 6 weeks.

Our meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:30pm in the SHS library. Please feel free to come and check it out!

If you are not receiving periodic emails and you are a PTSA member, please contact one of us below.

Did you know that Reflections contest winners receive cash prizes? 1st place winners get \$25, 2nd place winners \$15 and 3rd place winners \$10. Watch for next year's theme and plan to participate next fall!

Eliot Westwood

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Spotswood Athletic Booster Club News

The Booster Club is a vital part of the sports program and Spotswood. With the budget cuts that the schools and athletic programs are experiencing, the money from the Booster Club is even more important. All of the money that is generated goes right back into the sports that your child plays. Some of the items that the Booster Club

pays for are uniforms, mats, medals, certificates, speakers, fencing, updates to fields, sports medicine supplies, special needs that teams have, etc.

The Booster Club is in need of directors/officers for the next school year. Please consider helping out. Meetings are the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in

the Lecture Room. Please come to a meeting and see what you can do to help the Booster Club continue to support Spotswood's athletic program. You can also talk to any of the officers/directors listed below.

Thank you for your support.



2009-2010 Officers:

- President: Bobby Morris, bobby@allenyoho.com
 Vice President: Karen Hensley, karenhensley446@comcast.net
 Secretary: Diane Breedon, dbreedon@rhcc.com
 Treasurer: Debbie Caricofe, debcaricofe@msn.com
 Reporter: Beverley Nelson, bnelson@rockingham.k12.va.us

2009-2010 Directors:

- Membership: Linda Bodkins, lbodkins@rockingham.k12.va.us
 Blazer Cards: Wanda Hinkle, whinkle@rockingham.k12.va.us
 Concessions: Shelia Lilly, shelialilly@comcast.net
 Programs & Ads: Leesa Williams, lwilliams3124@comcast.net

Spotswood apparel is on line for specific sports at www.spotswoodgear.com. You can also purchase items in the school store. See Wanda Hinkle, the athletic secretary. Apparel is on display in the case outside the guidance office.

It is the policy of the Rockingham County School Board to comply with all applicable state and federal laws regarding non-discrimination in employment and educational programs and services. The Rockingham County Public Schools will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender, national origin, disability, economic status or age as to employment or educational programs and activities.

SOLs

It's not too early to check your calendar for upcoming SOL testing dates! Two-part writing tests for students currently enrolled in English 11 classes will be given March 2 - 5. Students will take the multiple choice part of the test during their English classes on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 2nd and 3rd. All students will take the second part, the direct writing prompt, on Thursday, March 4th. Makeup testing will be given on Friday, March 5th.

SOL tests for all other subjects and for English 11 reading will be given May 12-28. Since students need to pass a minimum number of SOL tests in order to graduate, it is essential for students to be present when their classes are scheduled to test or to reschedule their tests if they have to be absent. Parents are asked to not schedule non-emergency dental and medical appointments or vacations during testing time. Students who have conflicts with AP tests need to talk with the testing coordinator to reschedule.

Parents can help their students prepare for SOL testing by encouraging them to start reviewing their class notes and quizzes 4-6 weeks before testing starts. Students can also go online and take practice tests and review materials at home. The following are several excellent SOL practice sites:

<http://www.iq.poquoson.org> - Choose test by subject area or grade level; gives instant feedback on right/wrong answers

jLab is an excellent source for math and science practice

<http://www.rockingham.k12.va.us>

Click on "RCPS Teacher Created SOL Test Practice" User Name is *rockingham* Password is *fenn*

Use the dropdown menu to select the subject the subject and the number of questions you want to practice. If you choose

Practice mode, you get immediate feedback whether you are correct or not. If you choose *Test* mode, you get a page of



Also, six hours of after-school tutoring will be provided May 4, 5 and 6 from 3 - 5 p.m. in all subject areas. Information will be posted around the school publicizing the tutoring and the locations.

If you have questions about SOL testing, please contact Marian Suter, the School Testing Coordinator, at msuter@rockingham.k12.va.us or call the school at 289-3100.



PHYSICALS

PHYSICALS FOR ATHLETES

May 15th - \$10.00

The physical required to participate in athletics for the 2010-11 school year will be offered at Spotswood HS on Sat May 15th. Girls report at 9 AM and boys at 10:15 AM.

This opportunity is offered to all UPCOMING 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade students who will be attending SHS or ERHS next year. The cost of the physical this day is \$10.

In order for a student to participate in any athletic activity during the 2010-11 school year they must have a physical and complete the VHSL physical

form after May 1, 2010. District, Region and VHSL guidelines state that an athlete may not participate in any school sponsored camp, pre-season conditioning or open gym without having a current physical on file at the athletic department office. Therefore, completed physicals forms are due to the athletic office by July 1, 2010. On May 15th a great opportunity is being given by local doctors, nurses and the Spotswood staff to complete this screening process. We hope all Spotswood/ERHS athletes will take advantage of and participate in this opportunity. The blank physical form will be distributed to athletes the 2nd week of May. The form can also be downloaded from the SHS athletic web page

at www.spotswoodblazers.org. Parents and athletes should complete the sections pertaining to them and the athlete should bring the form with them on the day of the physicals at Spotswood. ANY ATHLETE WHO PAYS THE FEE BY MAY 13TH TO THE ATHLETIC OFFICE WILL BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO THE FRONT OF THE LINE ON MAY 15TH. PRIZES SUCH AS 10-11 ATHLETIC GAME PASSES, LANYARDS, T-SHIRTS, HATS, SWEAT PANTS WILL BE GIVEN THROUGH A DRAWING FOR THOSE THAT COMPLETE THEIR PHYSICAL ON MAY 15TH.

COUNSELING NEWS

Scheduling

We are in the process of meeting with each student individually to discuss their schedule for the 10-11 school year. This is an important process and it is crucial that parents are having conversations with their students about their choices.

SAT/ SAT II Reminders

Juniors who are planning to go to a four year college should plan to take the SAT's this spring if they have not already taken the test. Juniors and seniors are reminded of the following deadlines:

SAT/SAT II

<u>Test Dates</u>	<u>Registration Deadlines</u>		<u>Place</u>
	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Late</u>	
March 13	February 4	February 18	HHS
May 1	March 25	April 8	HHS
June 5	April 29	May 13	HHS

Standby testing - students interested in taking an SAT/SAT II test who did not make the registration deadline have the option of paying an additional fee of \$30.00 and bring the registration materials to the testing site the morning of the test.

To register online for the SAT's go to: www.collegeboard.com

High School Code: 471715

Scholarships

Remember there are wonderful opportunities for students to get scholarships for further education. Lists of scholarships and the applications are available from Mrs. Cumberland. Please be sure to meet the guidance deadlines. All scholarships are also listed on the SHS guidance homepage. Also remember to meet your college deadlines for the financial aid forms, FASFA forms.

Check out the SHS homepage- <http://www.rockingham.k12.va.us>

PARENT CONFERENCES

SHS conference day will be held on February 4, 2010 from 12:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Please call SHS (540) 289-3100 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. and speak with Julia Smith to schedule your appointment time in advance of that day. Parent conferences should always be scheduled by calling ahead and making an appointment to ensure the teacher or counselor would be available.

If there is a need for a conference at another time during the school year, arrangements should be made with that teacher. A counselor can help facilitate contacts if needed.

Shepherd University

A representative with Shepherd University will be visiting on February 25 @ 9:00 am. Students should have a signed transcript request on file if they are planning on registering.