



Viking Voice

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From the Principal's Desk...

Greetings,

We are just over half way through the 2017-2018 school year. Our Freshmen have finished exploratory and chosen their shop placements. Our Sophomores are preparing for their MCAS Exams in March, April and June. The Juniors are preparing for Cooperative Employment Opportunities and the Seniors are looking at the final run before graduation.

We have had so many things happen on campus this year. We have had guest speakers for the students like Geeg Wiles who talked about 'Commandeering Your Life' and working towards your dreams. You can watch his TEDx

talk on Youtube to see some of the message her gave our students.

We have been awarded the Capital Skills Grant to upgrade our Horticulture program. The Capital Skills Grant is a competitive grant through the Governor's Work Force Skills Cabinet. We will be rebuilding the greenhouses and will be bringing in Hydroponics, Terraconics and other state of the art growing systems to expand our Farm-to-Table program to include salad greens and small vegetables.

Our Electrical Program is finishing up the rebuild of their shop, where we have used Capital Skills Grant money from last year's award.

We have hosted many visitors to the school this year: Acting Commissioner of Education Jeff Wulson; Senior Associate Commissioner Cliff Chuang; Representative Kocot; Representative Peisch Chairwoman of the State Education Committee; Western Massachusetts High School Athletic Directors, and many more.

We are working hard for your children and work every day to make the Smith Vocational Community proud.

My best,
Joseph Bianca

Spanish Class - Senior Mendelsohn

Spanish has now become part of the academic curriculum at our school for the first time, as we continue to expand our course offerings. Spanish classes are conversation based, and intended to help students use the language to communicate in everyday situations. Students are studying the language to become better prepared in their vocational field, for personal interest, or for more advanced study in college.

The language of instruction is mostly Spanish, involving a period of adjustment for students as they develop their comprehension skills. This immersion setting is beneficial in the long run, because students learn to negotiate meaning in real contexts. Cultural aspects of the Spanish-

speaking world are also an ongoing focus of the class.

In Spanish I, Juniors and Seniors have learned the vocabulary they need to speak about their everyday lives. Thus far, students have learned how to ask basic questions, talk about things that they have, describe themselves, describe activities that they like and don't like, and describe members of their families. In the second half of the year, students will continue to talk about their daily lives, and learn how to complete everyday tasks in Spanish. Students will be able to describe where they are going, what they want, what someone else says, and what they can do. They will learn vocabulary and phrases associated with food, cooking, clothing and shopping. We will be cre-

ating some class stories, and reading a short graphic novel in Spanish.

Additionally, classes in occupational Spanish are offered in both the Criminal Justice and Health Technology shops. During shop week, these students have learned targeted phrases and vocabulary to complete specific duties within their vocational field. Students in these shops can now complete some of the basic functions of their vocational training in Spanish.

We will continue to expand our Spanish offerings over the next few years. Adding Spanish to the curriculum offered has been a School Council goal for the last 3 years. Two years of a Foreign Language is required for entrance into 4 year colleges in Massachusetts.

From the Bookcase...

SVAHS has a full-time librarian! Ms. Skantz-Hodgson transitioned into this position in mid-October and has been serving the SVAHS students and staff in a variety of ways, from the traditional helping students select independent reading material and assisting with research, to presentations on news literacy and writing children's books. Some of the other ways she promotes literacy across campus include vocabulary building by emailing a "Word of the Day", its definition, and example sentence to all students and staff; and assisting teachers in writing assignments.

The library's website can be accessed at <http://www.smithtec.org/library>, or by clicking the library button on our school's home

page <http://www.smithtec.org>. At the library's site there are links to research databases, drivers education practice tests, our library catalog, and more. I am happy to order books that students request, but sometimes students just can't wait the 3-5 weeks it takes for most book orders to come in. In those cases, I encourage them to <http://www.cwmars.org/> to see if any libraries in their area have the book. Anyone who has a CWMARS library card can request that a book from another library be delivered to their town's library. Students who do not have a CWMARS library card can obtain one for free by going to their local library and requesting one; it cannot be done online. You can help your child get a card and subsequent books by bringing her/him to your

local library. The CWMARS library card also enables the holder to download ebooks from <http://www.cwmars.org> that can then be read on an iPad or other device.

Speaking of iPads, please urge your ninth or tenth grade student to bring their school-issued iPad to school each day, and to bring it fully charged. Teachers rely on students having these devices as part of their lesson delivery and submitting assignments.



Carpentry Builds for the Future

The Carpentry department is once again cranking out the projects. The Fall season saw the Carpentry students put custom milled siding on the Tiny house and dried it to weather. The next major project on their agenda was a metal roof for the Forestry Barn. As most of you know the barn is over seventy feet long and the rafter span is greater than 22 feet. Students placed and attached over one hundred and four, 22ft long, metal roofing panels on the forestry barn. The next step was to install the windows and doors and start the siding process.

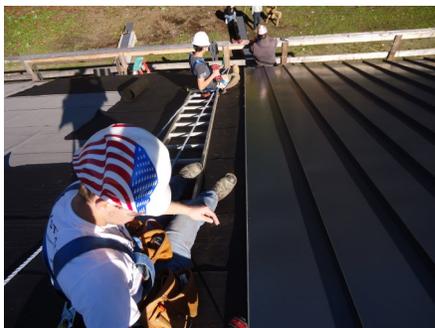
The barn is starting to look good with its new red panels. The winter has slowed down work on the Barn but with any luck the crew will be at the barn full time in March. The anticipated total completion date is early May.

We are looking forward to completion of the barn, as the Forestry Department will be putting a band saw mill in the barn and beginning to mill lumber. With any luck that lumber will end up in front of the carpentry and cabinet-making students and we will begin our long awaited collaboration with the Forestry Department.

Students are also working on several small community service projects for: Western Mass Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Save our Schools and the Sunderland energy conservation foundation.

Last but not least. The students added more storage to the shop by building a storage room and adding some shelving.

On one final note it should be well noted that the Carpentry and Cabinet-making dodgeball team are the 2017 champions, and we are looking forward to defending our title in 2018. Bring it on Plumbing!



SKI CLUB!

The Smith Vocational Ski and Snowboard club offers six to seven exciting trips to Jiminy Peak Mountain in Hancock, MA. This is a great way to get some fresh air, hang out with friends, and get some exercise during the winter months. If you have never been skiing or snowboarding, the mountain will rent out equipment and give lessons. If you missed out this year, then make sure to listen for the announcements next year! You won't want to miss out on this



Have you heard about the good news in Cosmetology?

Our Skills USA contestants this year for over 500 hours are Kristin Carter, Sarah Zawalick, and Natalie Sharac. Contestants for under 500 hours are Lindsey Bak, Gillian Thayer, Kleo Williams, and Taylor Casterline. Best of luck to you all!

We would like to congratulate Sarah Zawalick on being the first senior to pass her Cosmetology State Exam and to be the first out on CO-OP!

Cosmetology 10th graders were certified in hair extensions. Janet Lizotte, from Beauty Pros International, shared a variety of hair extension techniques such as: shrinkable tubes, beaded weft, hot fusion, and the tape in method. Lizotte shared industry tips for marketing hair extensions.

Alumni Stephan Wright shared his knowledge and talents in November as he demonstrated a clipper cut to our students. Sydney, a Paul Mitchell educator, recently was in to demonstrate the latest long bob haircut in the Pop XG line by Paul Mitchell.

On February 28th, stylists and local salon owners will be volunteering their time to go through mock interviews with our students. Kendra Cross, the

department chair, will be an interviewer and will come in prior to the interviews to help students prepare for this experience.

Our department is pleased to collaborate with the Northampton Council on Aging and Chesterfield Council on Aging by offering a "spa day" once a month to all seniors. All work is done by students and is supervised by licensed instructors. We will be offering haircuts, manicures, pedicures, and facials on the following days: Feb. 9th, March 16th, April 13th and May 18th. The available times are 9 and 10 am appointments. We look forward to making your visit a positive one! For more information, call 1-413-296-4007 for Francine Frenier or Jennifer Gilman at 1-413-587-1414 ext. 3531.

Our ninth grade cosmetology students are settling into our shop. They have chosen teal as their class color, received their kits, and are learning the basics: partings, braiding, marcel curls, roller bases with direction, and massage manipulations. In related class, they are learning about shop safety, ethics, disinfectants, and client consultations.

The tenth grade students are working hard to fine tune their practical procedures and time management skills for a variety of services before their junior year when they will be introduced to chemical services. These include various mock perm winds, color applications both retouch and virgin, facials, manicures, up-styling, and hair cutting.

The eleventh graders are practicing client consultations and communication skills with their clientele. The navigation of the Salon Target is becoming easier as they perform reception duties. Students are learning waxing, facials, pedicures, manicures, product knowledge, styling techniques, upstyles, chemical relaxing, permanent waving, as well as a variety of haircuts and haircoloring techniques.

The twelfth graders are practicing mock state board exams in preparation for licensure. Students continue to practice their employability skills, technical skills, and work on clientele. Seniors diligently work on a group business plan, portfolio projects, safety documents, and navigate the Salon Target software.



SVAHS Salon
Hours: Tuesday,
Wednesday, and
Thursday: 8:30-
12:30

Phone
Number:
1-413-587-1414
Ext. #3531

English Department News



GRADE 9

Students are currently in the midst of writing their Exploratory Shop Essay in which they analyze their unique challenges and strengths throughout the four month process. First, they brainstorm a list of the communication, collaboration, and trade skills that are used in the workplace and school and then apply them to their individual exploratory experiences. Students learn about and practice the thought process called "meta-cognition" in which they analyze their learning process in order to develop greater self-awareness and understanding of how they learn and how to best use their personal strengths to overcome their challenges.

GRADE 10

10th grade English classes are continuing their study of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a classic novel about the Jim Crow South, by Harper Lee. Many of the students are intrigued by this story of small town family life and racial tension that sheds light on the beliefs and mores of people living during

the 1930's in Maycomb, Alabama. Students are reading about the history of racism in the South, local lore that creates the setting of the novel, and connecting with their own personal experiences, while examining themes of oppression and the heroism of those who stand up for justice. After they finish reading the novel, students will write an MCAS-style essay.

GRADE 11

Students are applying research and writing processes to develop thesis statements that guide their research papers on sustainability within their trades or other areas of interest. They have learned how to distinguish between credible and unreliable sources, and have applied note-taking strategies to the sources they have selected. The next steps include outlining and drafting before writing the final paper due in February.

Also, students have learned basic resume-writing skills and created a resume that

details their school and work experiences. Students will bring these resumes to our annual Mock Interview event to be held at Smith Vocational in March. Volunteer employers from the community will stage interviews with the students, giving them valuable, practical experience they can apply later when they interview for prospective jobs.

GRADE 12

Advanced English 12 students are currently at work on an exciting visual project titled "Details, Details, Details!" in which they must select a famous, classical, or reputable piece of artwork and replicate it, using themselves as the subject of the art. For example, one student Amanda York is replicating the iconic American wartime propaganda poster "We Can Do It!" Amanda will work to make herself as similar to Rosie the Riveter as possible, and photograph herself in the same pose, minimizing inconsistencies between the original and the reproduction and using some graphic



PJ McNeil

Agricultural Mechanics, Chapter Vice President
Class of 2019

I have been involved in the FFA ever since I joined Smith Vocational in sophomore year. When I went to my first meeting I knew that

FFA - 'Farm bits'

I wanted to run for chapter office. The FFA has helped me find critical leadership skills that have helped me with job interviews, making new friends, and meeting new people. I take pride in my abilities in shop. I am always so excited when I can positively represent my school in FFA competitions and CDEs (Career Develop-

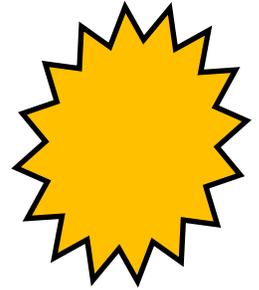
ment Events). The FFA has helped me make many new friends in my new school as well as all around the country! I am very happy that I made the decision to run for a chapter officer position as it has assisted me in many opportunities that I would have never gotten if I hadn't run.

Gearing Up! With Advanced Manufacturing

The Manufacturing has started off the first half of the year with a great start! We raised over \$600 for the shop at the school's annual Craft Fair in November selling student manufactured items and t shirts, our best year to date! Don't forget to keep an eye out for next year's craft fair and collect one of our annual Christmas ornaments! Congratulations to this year's group of freshmen that joined the Manufacturing family! We have a great group

of kids that will be looking to fill the thousands of available manufacturing jobs in Massachusetts in just a couple short years. Speaking of manufacturing jobs, our juniors are ramping up to fill co-op positions in western Mass. Calls are coming in looking for kids, and it's common for us to have more jobs than students available. Some of juniors also represented our shop at the Mass Mutual Center for Springfield's Business West Exposition making the school

and community proud and informed of the great things they are capable of doing. Our sophomore class is progressing along, trying to catch up to the juniors and be ready for employment! Manufacturing is hot in Massachusetts and our students are getting trained on some new, technologically advanced CNC machines and even our newest addition to our 3D printing machines.



Sweating in Body and Mind

It's been a busy and exciting year in the physical education and health department this year. In physical education classes, students have been busy playing a wide array of activities from floor hockey and soccer to team building activities and yoga. Students will soon begin yearly fitness testing through activities such as push-ups, sit-ups, and the shuttle run, just to name a few.

On the agenda for trimester three is a special RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) class being co-taught by Ms. McDonald and one of our Criminal Justice instructors, Ms. Tirado.

Our new health teacher, Ms. Sullivan, has been doing a great job making the curriculum her own. Students in 10th grade are currently working on a campus wide campaign to end dating violence. The freshmen will be working on a unit

on Substance Abuse Prevention using some new materials and games that were purchased for the department this year and writing a research assignment explaining the effects and dangers of a specific drug or alcohol. She is looking forward to teaching students about the Human Life Cycle and Human Sexuality this spring using some of the new tools and curriculum that was acquired by the department this year.

CLASS OF 2018

Just a reminder to students and parents/guardians of the Class of 2018 that Senior Dues are now due. Students can drop off their money to Ms. Rodriguez in the Main Office before or afterschool.

The **Senior Dues are \$170** and includes the following:

- Senior Banquet
- Senior Breakfast
- Senior T-Shirt
- Cap & Gown
- 2018 Yearbook

If there are any questions please do not hesitate to email **Kristen Tirado** (ktirado@smithtec.org) or **Emily Dumais** (edumais@smithtec.org).

Thank you for your continued support!



Down at the Farm...

Agricultural Mechanics

Since the beginning of the school year, the agricultural mechanics students are learning skills from the trades in addition to learning life skills. The shop focuses on getting students ready for employment during and post Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School. Students have been engaged in lecture, hands on application, field trips and guests from industry all in preparing our students for success in their trade.

The senior and sophomores had a major project at the beginning of the school year. As a team they completely disassembled the greenhouse to assist in the moving of the greenhouse.

Seniors in the shop are hard at work on their own senior projects. They designed their own agricultural mechanic project that interested them. Several seniors are rebuilding both diesel and gasoline engines while others are fabricating different metal projects. Besides being busy with their own projects they are learning about the

aspects of running their own businesses, insurance, taxes, and being prepared for life after Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School.

Juniors are learning about hydraulics, engine systems, and tires. They have been building a log splitter, repairing tractors, and many other projects. They recently were guests for the day at "Pete's Tire Barn" recap and rim shop in Orange, Mass. This was a great experience, surely memorable for the students.

The sophomores are working on their electrical and electric motor unit. The goal is to understand basic electrical circuits and various application for home, industry and agriculture. Prior to this, students were engaged in oxygen acetylene cutting and brazing, ARC Welding, and MIG Welding.

The freshmen just started in the shop after Christmas break. Once safety has been completed they will be moving on to carpentry where they will be building tool boxes.



Horticulture

The Horticulture program has been busy the last few months preparing for the FFA National Convention, making holiday decorations, and receiving a Capital Skills Grant.

One of the more exciting additions to the program for the students is taking over mowing the lawns and ball field. The students are now responsible for mowing the grounds each week and keeping everything looking great. One addition to the program to help with this is the purchase of a new Zero Turn lawn mower.

At the end of October our FFA Chapter sent five students and its officers to the FFA National Convention to participate in two

different Career Development Events as well as participating in leadership workshops. Everyone had a great time. The Forestry team had a great showing, receiving silver and bronze medals.

The horticulture program and the FFA would like to thank everyone who supported the FFA by purchasing Christmas decorations produced by the horticulture students. Items included wreaths, centerpieces, swags, and cemetery logs. We look forward to servicing your needs again next season.

The biggest news for the Horticulture program is the awarding of a Capital Skills

Grant which will provide a much needed overhaul to the programs greenhouse while helping to provide the addition of a greenhouse and floriculture operations portion to the program. The grant will also purchase equipment and supplies needed for students to learn how to operate and run a greenhouse and floral shop. The biggest addition to the greenhouse will be the multiple hydroponic systems that will be used to grow and provide produce and fish for the culinary program and for the cafeteria. Students will grow salad greens, lettuce, tomatoes, herbs, in addition to trying other items like cucumbers, peppers, and strawberries.

Down at the Farm... Part 2

Animal Science

In animal science there are many joys and discomforts that students not only learn about, but experience. Recently students experienced the loss of Trixie the Llama. Trixie has been with the farm for almost two years. The animal science department works closely with Dr. Steve Purdy who leases the school six of his Camelids (Alpacas and Llamas) each year. Dr. Purdy comes to the farm monthly to work with the Camelids and students. Smith is fortunate to have a veterinarian that is willing to let students use his animals for education and provides us his services free of charge. While the loss of an animal is always devastating, here at Smith we turn it into an edu-

cational opportunity. Students spent two hours with Dr. Purdy conducting a necropsy (an autopsy for animals). He walked the students through the entire process while discussing the anatomy and physiology of the Llama. The necropsy concluded that Trixie died from Hepatic Lipidosis- a metabolic disease affecting the liver.

There is never a dull moment on the Oliver Smith Farm. Students are constantly engaged with the care of animals. Currently students are preparing for the joys of lambing, kidding, farrowing and kindling of our sheep, goats, pigs, and rabbits. We are expecting to have the barns filling up with newborns starting in February. Students will be learning

about newborn care and management throughout the spring. They will be responsible for administering vaccinations and properly identifying the new additions.

The Animal Science Department would also like to welcome Ms. Thibault as our new animal science instructor filling in for Ms. Holden. Ms. Holden was offered a fulbright scholarship to study vocational education in the Netherlands for the next six months. Ms. Thibault is a graduate from the University of Connecticut. She is well versed in animal science, business, and education. We are excited to add Ms. Thibault to our team!

Cabinet Making

Cabinetmaking has been very busy this year working on projects that allow students the opportunity to practice skills. The display cabinet in front of the main office contains some examples of the work created by students, the work will be on display until February 1st.

Our new group of 9th graders have started and are busy learning machine and tool safety. 10th grade continues working on projects and just completed Tiki tissue holder on display in the case in front of the office. The attached photos show students working on a butcher block table for the upcoming MAVA meeting and a Walnut live edge bench. 11th graders are starting to go on Co-op we have one student placed and have another in the wings, students not on co-op will continue practicing skills. The 12th grade has 3 students on co-op with good feedback from employers.



PLUMBING PRAVDA



Asher Chicoine in Abu Dhabi October 2017



Tim Girouard (left) posing in front of his completed conference project in Louisville Kentucky.



Congratulations to the class of 2020 for being the first class from the entire school to sit for and earn their OSHA 30 cards. The industry is putting ever higher emphasis on a safe work force & Smith's plumbing students are preparing for it. Thank you to Mr. Dave Travers who taught the class.

Smith Vocational continues to produce the finest plumbing students ON THE PLANET!

Asher Chicoine, a graduate of Smith's plumbing shop and employee of M. J. Moran Mechanical, was chosen from thousands of contestants to represent the United States of America at World Skills in Abu Dhabi this past October. Asher placed 13th in the world! This is the highest a student from the USA in this contest has ever placed. He also attended an earlier "practice" contest in China where he placed 4th. Asher is the quintessential vocational student. He possesses an engineering mind geared to solve real world problems. The world is his oyster. Mr. Lamour went with

Asher to Abu Dhabi. SkillsUSA medalists for 2017 from Smith.

Tim Girouard received a Bronze medal at the SkillsUSA National Conference in Louisville Kentucky in June. Tim was accompanied by his plumbing instructors Armand Lamour & Adam Poplaski. Tim began working for Phillip's Plumbing in Easthampton. Currently Tim works for Adams Plumbing & Heating as an apprentice. Tim has just been invited to interview for the honor of being selected to compete at WorldSkills Kazan Russia in 2019!



Congratulations to Sierra Davis, who was chosen by her instructors from all of the Seniors in the plumbing class as the Vocational Technical Allstar! She will attend the PHCC (Plumbing, Heating & Cooling Contractors) convention in Marlborough Massachusetts on March 10th. She will be present with her family, plumbing instructor and the other students chosen from the 27 High School Plumbing shops across the Commonwealth. She will receive a \$500 scholarship for her Tier 4 night class and a tool bag full of trade related tools. Sierra has an unmatched work ethic and a super positive outlook toward work and life in general. She currently is on Co-op with M. J. Moran Mechanical out of Haydenville MA.

(Sierra Davis)

Social Studies

The Social Studies Department hopes that the New Year finds students and their families happy and healthy. The new years find the Social Studies Department active with projects and creative writing assignments. Whenever possible we like to have students showcase their skills through a variety of assessments and students never fail to impress us. Students in Ms. Dumais and Ms. Brisbois, 10th grade have been submitting beautiful stories through their immigrant letter assignment. This annual writing assignment has students apply the content covered in class to a creative writ-

ing assignment. Every year the students amaze us with their writing skills and creativity. Ms. Brisbois has just wrapped up multimedia projects with her 11th and 12th grade government students involving landmark Supreme Court cases.



The Social Studies Department would like to congratulate Mr. Parks on his new position as Curriculum Coordinator! This change gives Mr. Parks new opportunities and also brings us a new teacher! Prior to the December break the Social Studies Department welcomed a Mr. Alex Subocz. Alex comes to us from JFK Middle School in Northampton. He is a graduate of Northampton High School and a recent graduate from Bates College in Maine. We are happy to have Alex joining us for the remainder of the year.

Criminal Justice; Walking the Beat



Congratulations to Instructor Tirado MVA New Teacher of the Year 2018!

In January, 10th and 12th grade criminal justice students spent the day with representatives of the Ludlow House of Corrections. Students were provided with a guided tour of the facilities and were fortunate to have met many correctional officers, as well as other high ranking officials within the corrections career field. Students were provided with an authentic opportunity to learn about the correctional system by observing an active and operational House of Correction. Students were able to watch correctional officers in the performance of

their duties giving them a better understanding of their numerous roles and responsibilities.

The 9th and 11th grade classes had the unique opportunity to visit and get a “behind the scenes” tour of Northampton Fire & Rescue. Students learned about the everyday duties held within the fire department and were all certified in CPR, First Aid, and the use of a defibrillator. Several working firefighters, paramedics, and emergency dispatchers took time out of their busy day to brief students on the Fire Protection career field.

As part of the organized crime unit, students in the senior class learned some of the intricate details of local street gangs and spent time with representatives of the Hampden County Gang Task Force.

The criminal justice program was fortunate to acquire several new pieces of

equipment, which were purchased using Perkins Funding. Instructors are very excited about the new 9-1-1 Emergency Dispatch Simulator, which provides reality based training to students. The lengthy training program will ultimately provide an additional certification as well as the experience needed to pursue police, fire, and emergency medical dispatch employment upon graduation. A handcuffing station or “dummy” was also purchased and the valuable piece of equipment will allow students to learn or continue practicing handcuffing, searching, and various take-down techniques.

Criminal Justice would like to welcome several new advisory board members: Kelly Banister, Director of Communications with Northampton Public Safety; John Garriepy, Director of Emergency Medical Services/Operations; and Zach Lebeau, Correctional Officer at the Hampshire County House of Corrections.

What’s Cooking in The Kitchen?

The Culinary Arts department would like to welcome and thank Chef Fortin to our school community as the newest member of our program and for her high energy and enthusiasm. In addition we would like to recognize our freshman additions and commend them for their hard work and focus as they begin to learn the culinary trade.

We are very excited to be catering this year’s general advisory diner in the spring and look forward to showcasing items from our school farm at this event, continuing to grow our farm to table offerings.

We would like to remind senior students that you may come and purchase items from our bakery case on restaurant days during

your lunch period. This a great senior privilege to take advantage of.

We would like to wish all of students competing in this year’s SKILLS USA district competition best of luck, **“Go get the gold”!**

Graphics Communications

The Graphic Communications shop at Smith is flying high from a very successful exploratory campaign this past fall. Our 9th / 11th week is filled to capacity as we have 11, 9th graders. We have added several digital pieces of equipment including a fully functional digital photography studio. We have a variety of backdrops to install in the studio - and we hope to offer senior portraits come spring time. Our shop will be partnering with carpentry later this winter to collaborate on a long-board design project, where we will be designing custom graphics to be adhered to longboards that the carpentry students will be building.

Junior Chefs Club

We would like to thank everyone who helped make our Pig Roast and “World Tour” fundraisers a success and let people know that we will be here on campus during this year’s home expo on March 10th and 11th selling baked goods. Stop by if you are in the area and check us out.

HEALTH NOTES WITH HEALTH TECHNOLOGY



Holiday Cheer!

Health technology welcomes new instructors Ms. Flourey, Mrs. Dandrea, as well as 11 excited grade 9 students to the department!

What have we been doing?

We visited Soldier On Women's Shelter and delivered 127 pounds of food with money collected from the Smith Voc. community.

Blood drive with the American Red Cross, collected 20 pints of blood. Thank you to all who donated. Next blood drive April 3rd.

Holiday Caroling to local nursing homes and adult daycare facilities.

The UMASS nursing club has made several visits with grades 9 & 11. We look forward to the growing relationship with the University.

We donated mattresses to a homeless shelter and donated healthcare items to a local organization with connections to Haiti. These items were delivered in December.

Grade 10 has begun their rounds at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in ancillary departments. While grade 11 is at Care One practicing skills for their CNA test,

which will be held later this Spring.

Our grade 12 class is starting phlebotomy. This program will lead to licensure and expands our students employability.

What is new?

Congratulations to our grade 12 students that have passed certification for Home Health Aide-Hadleigh Atwell, Ana Dragon, Shanixys Ofray- Diaz, and Emma Tobin

While our 9 and 11 graders are working with UMASS, our 10 and 12 grade students are connecting with the Westfield nursing club with grades 10 & 12.



FFA - 'Farm bits'

Jasmine Galereave Chapter Reporter/Vice President NHS

Animal Science

Class of 2018

FFA - Those three letters stand for something truly remarkable. An organization that's been changing over the years to support all of its members. FFA wants its members to strive, reach their career path, their goals, and do what they desire to do!

FFA is about leadership, character building, stepping out of your comfort zone, and learning by doing.

The two colors, national blue and corn gold symbolize our strengths and determination to learn. Our chapter wears our official dress proudly. The symbol we carry on those jackets empower us to learn, teach, speak up, and love agriculture. When we are in our jackets, we don't only represent our school, our Agriculture programs, our chapter, and our state but we also represent the

country! We represent one of the states in FFA. interviews, making new friends, and meeting new people. I take pride in my abilities in shop. I am always so excited when I can positively represent my school in FFA competitions and CDEs (Career Development Events). The FFA has helped me make many new friends in my new school as well as all around the country! I am very happy that I made the decision to run for a chapter officer position as it has assisted

The Physics of Engineering...

In the engineering department, seniors are programming robots to patrol an area indefinitely, building hydraulic arms to clear minefields, and designing proof-of-concept science experiments. Juniors are conducting energy audits on real buildings and building their own model houses to conduct thermal energy experiments, and building binary clocks. Sophomores have just wrapped up a project building compound machines out various gears, sprockets, pulleys, levers, and other devices. Freshmen are modeling various items in Autodesk, a CAD program.

In Engineering the Future II, students has been studying fluid flow and its applications to engines. In the last few weeks, we have been specifi-

cally studying the engineering of rocketry, which is inclusive of the design of the rocket engine, as well as a streamlined craft to respectively, maximize propulsion and minimize drag. This week, students designed, built, and tested water-propelled rockets.

In Physics I, students have been studying application of Newton's Laws of Motion. Specifically connecting this autumn's work in studying motion to the underlying forces behind any motion. In exploring application of dynamics, students have been experimenting with friction, rotational motion, and connected-mass systems.

The Chemistry of Biology...

Grade 9 Biology I students are completing the "Why are cells so small lab?". In this lab experiment students cover a variety of topics including acid/base reactions, diffusion, mathematics, surface area to volume ratios, percentages, and measuring skills. Ask them about how and why their cubes turned pink! Grade 11 Anatomy just finished a digestive system project and are now beginning a unit on the Skeletal System. Grade 12

Anatomy students are continuing to work on their Special Senses Project that they will teach to other students. Grade 10 Biology II is continuing to prepare for the June Biology MCAS and just completed a DNA extraction activity. Examples of previous MCAS test items to use for practice can be seen at <https://www.doe.mass.edu/mcas/search/>



Mathematics Counts!

The math department continues to prepare the 10th grade students to be successful on the MCAS math test, which this year will be administered on May 15 and 16. We remind parents and guardians of students in all grades that help in math is available to students after school either with their own math teacher, or with the Homework Help staff in the library every day after school. Please make sure your students are taking advantage of all the help offered. You can support them at home by check-

ing to make sure they are doing their math homework, and by providing a distraction-free time and space to get their homework done.

Members of the math department are also busy writing the curriculum for a Calculus course, which will be offered next school year. We are very excited to be expanding our math course offerings!

Finally, teachers are working hard to be sure that grades are put in the electronic gradebook in a timely man-

ner, please be sure that you check students' grades regularly and get in touch with the teacher with questions or concerns.

The electronic gradebook can be accessed at: <https://plusportals.com/SmithTec>. If you need help accessing the gradebook, click on the access request form: https://smithtec.formstack.com/forms/parent_portal.

Greetings from the *Class of 2020* Co-Advisors!

This year has went by so fast and we have a jam packed rest of the year ahead. We have already completed 2 fundraisers this year. The first fundraiser raised over \$1000 for our class. Thank you to all that participated or sent in the non-participation fee. Unfortunately, the second fundraiser fell short, as many students did not fundraise and did not turn their coupon books in on time to avoid being charged for the books. Bills for the second fundraiser (Wrap Around Coupon Books) have gone

out to families for students that did not bring them back in during the returnable window time that was allotted. Please do not send coupon books back as they are not returnable at this time. Payment is due upon receipt of the bill. The last fundraiser this year will kick-off on March 2nd and will run until March 16th, so please be on the lookout for it and Happy Fundraising!

Remember...In order to create opportunities for various things such as, class field trips or prom

venues, we have to participate in class fundraisers to help with the costs of those fun and exciting class activities. Also, students that participate in fundraising can reduce the cost of their senior dues (in the past, these have ranged from ~\$160~\$200) that goes to cover the cost of caps and gowns for graduation, yearbook, class gift, senior awards banquet, and various other senior activities. The more students participate in fundraising or send in the non-participation fee, the less that stu-

dent will pay for senior dues come Senior Year! Ask friends, family, teachers, staff, and neighbors.

Speaking of field trips...We are in the midst of planning our 10th Grade Field trip to 6 Flags that will take place at the end of the school year. More information will be coming home in the Spring! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us: **Jessica Moulton 587-1414 ext 3549** or **Daisy Rodriguez 587-1414 ext 3413**.

Collision Repair...for the Soul!

The Monte's March event took place on November 20th-21st of 2017. The Collision Repair Technology Department, in conjunction with Graphic Communications, came together last year to finish building two more custom shopping carts for Monte Belmonte from 93.9 to help raise funds for the Western Mass Food Bank. The theme of the 4 carts are from the Hunger Games movies. The names of the carts are Katniss, Katniss II "Catching Fire", Mocking Jay I and Mocking Jay II. Each dollar that is raised is worth \$7.00 at the Western Mass Food Bank. This year, Monte raised a record breaking \$258,000.

Monte and his supporters pushed all four carts from Springfield Mass. to

Northampton Mass. (14 miles) on November 20th and from Northampton to Greenfield (26 miles) on November 21, 2017. This year the tenth grade class and the Administration participated in the march. The students were assigned to do a research project learning all about the march. They also learned about what the Western Mass Food Bank does with all of the money that is raised. They began learning how important it is to help the people that are in need of food in Western Mass. The Class was able to take a field trip to the Western Mass Food bank in Hatfield Massachusetts, where they participated in a tour and then spent the day separating and sorting food to be delivered to families in need. They also interviewed Monte

Belmonte from 93.9, in why he does the march and a little about how he got started with the food bank. Andrew Moorehouse, the president and CEO of the Food Bank, was also interviewed so they could learn more about the bank and the families that are in need of food. All in all, the project was a success!



Automotive Technologies

The Automotive Technology department recently upgraded one of our diagnostic tools! Our old OTC Genisys has been replaced with an OTC Encore scanner. Though the old Genisys had served the shop well for over a decade, it was definitely an "old school" scanner based on previous technology and design. The Encore uses the new tablet based tech-

nology. It is very user friendly and versatile.

In the automotive specific training process the freshmen are currently studying brake systems, the sophomores are into electrical and electronics, the juniors are working with automatic transmissions and the seniors are engaged in engine performance.



Electrical Co-Op Corner!

It is with great excitement that we report to you our numbers for cooperative education.

- Senior Class 10
- Junior Class 6

This is a sign of the times ladies and gentlemen. We have changed the way we teach our students in order to reflect the work performed in the field by our electrical contractors. With the support of our advisory board, business owners in our community. And with helpful input from the electricians union.

We were able to get ahead of the curve. Why is this a big deal? Well, it allows us to educate our students in the latest and greatest processes and procedures in the electrical field. We were able to apply the latest techniques within our trade and teach our students those same techniques. In response to this, the result is the resounding co-op numbers you see above. Our students are in high demand!

THE DAILY ARC...LIVING WITH ELECTRICAL

An open letter from Mr. Kelly, Electrical Instructor on the graduating seniors:

I can't believe it's been 3 years since I began working with the current senior class. I have seen the good, the bad, and the ugly. They have struggled at times. They have pushed the boundaries of appropriate language. They even, sometimes in spectacular fashion, had a temper tantrums or two. But, we all made it through these trials and tribulations together, as a family. One, by one, they began to qualify for cooperative educational placement. Which, if you are not familiar with, is a cooperative program between the electrical contractors and our electrical program, to us and our students, it's the holy grail of accomplishment. It validates what we are teaching and the long hours that both the student and the teachers put in every year. This program employs our students and replaces their shop time with authentic hands on experiences in the electrical field. Under the supervision of electricians, and master electricians, our students in essence officially begin their apprenticeships, furthering their experience and expertise in the field. For their efforts, they receive hourly compensation too. One, by one, they left the shop to pursue their education out in the field. And, one, by one, they returned every other week, proud of their accomplishments. Proud to show they were putting together everything they had learned throughout their years in electrical. Proud to tell us how much money they were making. Then, what seemed to come from the depths of their soul. One, by one, the students would say with a hard swallow of pride, and an endearing look on their faces, "Mr. Kelly, you were right." "It's no joke out their!" Ah, finally, after 3 years of



explaining to them the do's and don'ts of the electrical trade. After many hours of after school help. After all the exams, the shop projects, all in preparation for their future. After all this, they finally understand the importance of everything taught to them. I got to tell ya, validation feels good. So what if it took 3 years, right? So, in parting, don't forget to congratulate your electrical student. "They earned it." Congrats to our senior class you have set the bar even higher. We wish you luck and success in the future. Remember, with great power comes great responsibility!

The numbers are in!

The Freshmen exploratory students have come and gone. They have tinkered, and toiled, built working circuits, and even popped a few circuit-breakers along the way. We are excited to say we have accepted a whopping 15 new freshmen to our electrical program.

The sophomore circuit.

The sophomores are plugging and switching away in the shop. They will be the next in line to tackle the many projects on and off campus next year.

The Junior Jugernauts

The junior class has finished their Habitat for Humanity rough wiring. Under the supervision of Mr Chandler, they worked hard to complete the rough wiring according to the timeline given by the Habitat folks. Great Job Juniors!

FFA - 'Farm bits'

Henry Sarafin

Chapter President
Forestry/Horticulture
Class of 2018

I have been a member for 4 years, I have also been the chapter president for the past two years for the smith FFA chapter. FFA has been and will

be one of the greatest impacts on my life. It has taught me organizational skills, a good work ethic, communication skills, different fields or jobs in agriculture and numerous other things about agriculture. I have received 3 out of the 4 degrees that I can obtain at the chapter and state level. If you

are in any of the three ag based shops (Animal Science, Agriculture Mechanics, Forestry /Horticulture) Join, Join, Join, this amazing youth organization. The FFA will strongly benefit you, the student in the long run. Please get active, get involved, be a part of the FFA!

From Heather Bouley, Food Service Director

Our New Favorite Color!

It's February, which means you're already seeing a little red, right? Well, we want to encourage you to see even more—and you can start with the foods you serve at home!

You've probably heard that it's best to eat a rainbow of colors, right? Well, that's because each color tends to represent certain nutrients your body needs.

Red fruits and vegetables are antioxidant-packing powerhouses, which means they actually protect the cells in your body from damage. Ripe raspberries and red peppers are just two tasty ways to show your cells some love!

Feeling "chili"?

Red beans are a versatile way to add color, fiber, and protein to your meal. Pair red beans with tomatoes and lean protein, and you've got a warm winter meal packed with antioxidant power!



Make Your Move

Did you know the current recommendation is that children get at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day? That means regardless of the weather, we all have to keep moving! Here are some ways to get up and go, even indoors:



* Search for yoga exercises online and see who holds their pose longest!

* Sledding burns over 400 calories in just one hour!

* Consider offering incentives for outside chores like shoveling...



We're rethinking school meals!

Join us as we celebrate the good work in schools across the country.

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