



December 2018

Dear STHS Community -

As 2018 draws to a close, we wish everyone in our community a beautiful holiday season. We are grateful for our incredible students and it is an honor to see them learn, grow, and prepare for their future. This Winter Newsletter contains appreciations, important dates, progress on Viking Vision and our focus on Character, academic highlights, and a summary of the bell/course schedule survey.

Parent Appreciation

We appreciate all of the parents who support our students!

- The Vikings Boosters Club is similar to a PTA and funds they raise support Viking Vision meetings, teacher appreciation and innovations, and special athletics team requests.
- PABA, the Performing Arts Booster Club raises funds to provide critical support to our performing and creative arts programs.
- Cafecitos represents our English Learner Advisory Council and is a lively group of parents who advocate for Spanish speaking families and all of our students who are learning.
- The School Site Council providing wisdom and guidance for school site plans.

Staff Appreciation

We are impressed with our staff's dedication to our students.

- There are many examples of **teachers** who open their doors at lunch for clubs or academic help, stay after school to work on projects, put on productions, lead field trips, model community service, update and refine courses, coordinate events, and in many cases, advocate for students who need connection and resources the most.
- Our **support staff** is outstanding! Thank you to all the people that contribute to the school behind the scenes - secretaries, instructional aides, custodians, maintenance, library services, kitchen staff, counselors, security guards, athletics support, and our nurse!

Community Support During Winter Break

It is important to acknowledge that many are experiencing hardship and loss. We are deeply saddened by the loss of several loved ones who have impacted our school in countless ways. We have been providing time, space and support to students during school. *Many thanks to Live Violence Free who will continue to provide grief counseling during the winter break. Live Violence Free 24 Hour Crisis Hotline: (530) 544-4444*

Please check our website for updates www.sths.ltusd.org

Best wishes -

Carline Sinkler & Pat Harnett



Important Dates!

January 7 - Return from Winter Break

January 9 - Cafecitos - 8am FRC; SSC 3pm Library

January 10 - Boosters - 5:30-7pm - Student Union

January 14 - PABA - 6-7pm - Student Union

January 17 - Viking Vision 2022 Community Meeting 5:15-6:45 at LTCC

January 21 - Martin Luther King Holiday

January 25 - End of Fall Term

January 26 - Winter Formal

February 7 - Spring Welcome Exhibition - Join us for an interactive, exhibition style event in the Student Union! 5:30-7pm; Minimum Day

Viking Graduate Profile and Focus on Character

Empathy & Resilience Assemblies

All students had the opportunity to attend a presentation by Leon Malmed on his experience as a young child during the Holocaust. Mr. Malmed is a living example of how empathy leads to courage and resilience can enable people to survive and grow in the midst of unimaginable tragedy. We are grateful for Mr. Malmed's dedication to our community and our youth.

Digital Citizenship & Social Media

Doug Dilts, STHS librarian, is teaching lessons on social media, personal responsibility & empathy to all students. Individual classes are receiving lessons on how important it is to think before they post to social media.

Building the Confidence to Say "No"

Vaping is on the rise throughout the country and we have seen a rise in vape use at STHS. Starting in February, all students will be participating in lessons taught by Health teacher Julia Russell about what vaping does to the teenage brain and body. We will discuss ways to say "no" with confidence and develop personal responsibility skills around the consequences of their actions.

Academic Highlights

We are focusing on literacy, project-based learning, and responding to academic needs. See below for some great examples of our progress! We also celebrate the work of ALL of our departments and hope you will join us for Spring Welcome on February 7th to see more of our work!



School-wide Literacy

- Students are gaining literacy skills across the school as we implement the Claim, Evidence, Reasoning (CER) framework which has origins in the Next Generation Science Standards.
- Ms. Heidel is taking the lead on our school-wide literacy plan. Mr. Filce has been providing writing support for students throughout the school and working with entire classes on writing feedback.
- Math has adopted the CER framework and Mrs. Fabino and Mrs. Suglian are providing math support.

Project Based Learning (PBL)

Teachers are collaborating on PBL units and students in different subjects have been working together on authentic projects and public products. Thank you, Mrs. Tillson for your leadership!

STEAM

Our two new science teachers, Ms. Friedman, and Ms. Richardson are doing a fantastic job with our new STEAM classes. Students combine concepts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, & Math in these new science classes and recently finished a project on building artificial joints like knees, elbows, and shoulders. Their projects were unique, creative, and collaborative!

After School Learning Lab

We are offering academic support after school through the After School Learning Lab. Students may sign up themselves or be recommended by teachers or coaches. STHS teachers will provide general and subject specific support on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3-4. [Learning Lab details](#) on our website. www.sths.ltusd.org.

School Site Council

Bell and Course Schedule Survey Results

Thank you to all who for completed the survey. 670 people responded and 74.1% reported that they like the current schedule. However, there are patterns in the responses that we can use as good feedback going forward. The SSC has a small working group that is examining responses for recommendations.