

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



**High School
September 22**

**Middle School
September 29**

Southern Regional High School District
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SOUTHERN LIGHTS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SOUTHERN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Southern Lights

Summer 2005



Board Appoints New Principal

At its June meeting the SR Board of Education appointed Eric Wilhelm as the Principal of the Southern Regional High School effective July 1.

Wilhelm has spent his career as an educator in the district and feels he has "grown up educationally within its confines." He stated, "My regard for the school, the students, teachers, support staff, and ultimately the community is beyond reproach. I would have never stayed if I did not have that type of regard."

Initially Wilhelm was hired as a substitute teacher in 1989. Soon after, he was hired to teach adapted physical education as well as regular health and physical education in the Middle School. At this time he was also employed as a Varsity wrestling

coach, a position he held for 14 years. Additionally, from 1991 to 1994 he coached Varsity football. When the High School was expanded, he went on to teach health and physical education there. For the past two years he has served as the freshman Assistant Principal.

A native of Cleona, Pennsylvania, Wilhelm holds a B.S. in Health and Physical Education from Slippery Rock University (Slippery Rock, PA) and a Masters Degree in Educational Administration from New Jersey City State University. Currently he is vice-president of the Tuckerton Elementary School Board, Tuckerton, NJ. He is married and has three young children. He noted, "I am the most proud of the fact that I am a father."

Wilhelm feels it is not only an honor to be named the Principal but also the greatest challenge of his professional career. He welcomes the opportunity and is extremely excited about the upcoming school year which he approaches with very specific goals. "I want to continue to propel Southern in the direction of success. Since I have been here, we have added programs that benefit both the students and the community. I want to continue that pursuit of making Southern the envy of the state," he explained.

High School Achieves Annual Yearly Progress Rating

First-time eleventh graders took the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) in March, and the results are in. Southern Regional achieved Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2005 in both language arts literacy and mathematics in all subgroups. Janice

Polito, eleventh grade assistant principal who is also responsible for coordinating testing and basic skills, stated, "As the statistics indicate, SR made significant gains and improvements in the number of students who passed the March 2005 HSPA as the Class of 2007 exhibited outstanding performance on the test this year."

Polito shared these results and her analysis with the district. Her highlights included the following statistics: in Mathematics the General Education group was 91.3% proficient & advanced proficient as compared with 83.9% in 2004, and the Total Student group was 83.8% proficient & advanced proficient as compared with 74.4% in 2004; in Language Arts Literacy the General Education group was 98.7% proficient & advanced proficient as compared with 95.9% in 2004, and the Total Student group was 93.5% proficient & advanced proficient as compared with 86.4% in 2004.

Polito noted that despite the fact that the State of NJ raised the proficiency benchmarks on the HSPA for the first time in three years, Southern Regional met the increased state-mandated standards for AYP. As a result, SRHS does not face any sanctions from the

state or federal government regarding Title I funding. According to the State Department of Education, the results of the March 2005 HSPA indicate a total of 851 schools, which represents 34.5% of schools in the state, did not make AYP. She concluded, "The fact that Southern Regional High School did make AYP continues to demonstrate the curriculum and instructional quality and high levels of student learning and achievement that characterize Southern Regional High School and make it a totally effective school."

Themes Guide Students through New Year

Both the Middle School and the High School have chosen their themes for the 2005-2006 school year. Activities and special days are built around these themes to remind students of their goal and to guide and motivate them throughout the year.

Once again this year the MS will encourage Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort or PRIDE. Lime green bracelets inscribed with PRIDE will be given to students

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Scholarship Awards Display Community Spirit



Dan Taylor presents the G. Anderson Agency scholarship to Jamie England. Jamie is majoring in math and secondary education at Ramapo College (NJ).

With the help of a generous community, members of the class of 2005 were the beneficiaries of a record-setting \$525,850 in scholarship aid. Local businesses, service groups, civic associations, individuals, and memorial donors displayed their exceptional generosity and support for the students of Southern at the Scholarship Awards Program on June 2 when 798 scholarships were presented to 307 students by 320 donors. Staff and student organizations associated with Southern Regional also presented scholarships.

The total represented a marked increase from the \$58,000 awarded that first year to the class of 1985. Over the years, the scholarships have enabled our newest alumni to attend some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the country while also providing help to those whose desire it is to attend local colleges or technical and trade schools. The program touches all students of the district and is invaluable in their pursuit of higher education and their dreams. As noted in an editorial in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Southern's scholarship program serves as a "model for other high schools throughout the country."



Skip Martin from Causeway Ford presents the Causeway Ford Student Athlete Award to Alicia Cornelius. Alicia will be taking her general studies at OCC and then transferring to Stockton to major in elementary education.

Southern Teachers Honored for Excellence

Seven middle and high school teachers at Southern Regional were honored with awards and nominations for the 2004-2005 school year at a celebration of The Art of Teaching in the SRMS cafeteria in May. The district participates in various county, state, and national award programs that recognize exceptional educators. A panel of teachers, Board members, and administrators select the recipients based on their achievements in the classroom, innovative techniques, and service to the students. The awards include: Governor's Teacher Recognition Award, First Year Teacher Award, Princeton University Distinguished Teacher Nominee, Ocean County Superintendents' Teacher of the Year Nominee, and New Jersey State Teacher of the Year Nominee.

The Governor's Teacher Award recognizes a teacher in each building for unique methods and outstanding accomplishments in the classroom. This year's teacher recipients were Jeff Brown who teaches social studies in the high school and Beth Ackers who teaches math in the middle school. Brown sees himself primarily as a storyteller and has distinguished himself with his "living history" presentations. Ackers has personalized learning by making it a point to know her students' activities both inside and outside the classroom.

Melissa Leonetti, who teaches Spanish in the middle school, and Matt Abatto, who teaches social studies in the high school, were chosen for the First Year Teacher Award for their outstanding accomplishments in the classroom. Leonetti creates activities that integrate culture, language, other disciplines, and authentic experiences into each class. Abatto has displayed himself to be the kind of teaching professional who demands excellence from his students while, at the same time, earning their respect.

The Princeton Distinguished Teacher Award is a national competition that recognizes teachers who are educational leaders and innovators. This year's nominee, Joe Begonia who teaches art in the high school, has distinguished himself with both students and colleagues. Regarding teaching, he feels a

School closings or delayed openings due to storms or other emergencies will be broadcast by radio stations WOBM-92.7 FM, WBHX-99.7 FM, WJRZ-100.1 FM, and also by Southern's SNN channel.

teacher's responsibilities include modeling learning and ethical behavior.

Sue Sharkey, who teaches health and physical education in the high school, was nominated for the Ocean County Superintendent Teacher of the Year. This competition recognizes excellence in the

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SRHS Partners With Trump

SRHS has partnered with Trump Hotels and Casino Resorts in AC in a job shadowing enterprise for the past 10 years. Although 22 other high schools participate in the program, Southern is the only school in Ocean County to shadow there. The partnership benefits both the Trump Corporation and Southern. Students have the chance to see what the hotel industry has to offer while Trump has the opportunity to work with prospective employees. Career fields from hotel hospitality to culinary arts are included in the program.

Trump Corporation articulates its expectations and teaches students the skills and attitude congruent with their philosophy and the business world in general. Speakers offer the gamut of resources including dressing for success.

Every Wednesday for seven weeks the school transports the selected seniors to Trump. Week one is an orientation where they meet with their mentors to review the expectations and corporate policy. Weeks two through six they job shadow, and week seven is graduation. Four students, under the direction of teachers Karen Foglia and Jean Korte, participated in this year's program.

"Selection mimics the competitive and corporate process Trump would actually use."

Foglia and Korte screen the interested seniors. Selection mimics the corporate and competitive process that Trump would actually use. Students complete an application from Trump and are then interviewed by the teachers. In addition, grades and attendance are taken into consideration. Then the field is narrowed to the top highly qualified students. "Most are students who might not have an interest in a post secondary education at this time," Foglia noted. "This experience exposes them to career opportunities in the industry and helps them to decide on either schooling or full-time employment at the Trump Organization immediately following high school graduation."



The Select Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble

performed at the 13th Annual South Jersey Band and Orchestra Directors Association Concert Band Festival in the spring. The Wind Ensemble placed second in this competition but was unable to attend the State Concert Band Gala. As a result, the Symphonic Band, next in line with their exceptional performance, not only represented region three in the State Music Gala at Trenton State College but they also opened the concert. Only six bands from the state were chosen to perform in the evening concert. This noteworthy invitation places Southern Regional High School music at the hub of the best programs in the state.



The HS String Ensemble, String Orchestra, and Full Orchestra had the opportunity to work with Maestro Jed Gaylin, conductor of the Bay-Atlantic Symphony. In May, he presented afternoon workshops at Southern for the three groups which proved to be an amazing experience for all of the students involved. In addition to having Maestro Gaylin at Southern, the Bay-Atlantic Symphony offered discounted tickets to all Southern musicians and their families for the Bay-Atlantic Symphony concert at Stockton College.

The Southern Regional Tri-M Music Honor Society hosted the Mainland Regional Tri-M Music Honor Society at Southern Regional. The purpose was for music students to experience another music department with a similar program and to meet students with a similar interest in music. During the course of the day, Mainland students shadowed Southern students to experience the music classes offered at Southern as well as some of the other classes. Jennifer Hodgson and Carolyn Placa are the advisors for the Southern Regional Tri-M Music Honor Society.

To find out more about the Southern Regional School District visit the web site . . . <http://www.srsd.net>

Community Sponsors Workshop with S.T.Y.L.E.

The women of STYLE (Student Youth Leadership Experience) along with SOCH, Stafford Municipal Alliance, and Harbor House sponsored a one-day workshop on women's issues targeting eighth grade through twelfth grade girls and their parent/guardian to alleviate the risk factors facing girls as they transition from middle school through high school. The day included women's health issues, dating/relationships, school to school transition, club drugs, dress for success, make-overs, hair styling, food, prizes, and raffles. Among the presenters were Carol Schoenberg, Gail Bott, Lisa Terjesen, Heather Marino, four representatives from Mary Kay, and four representatives from the Vocational School.

Moving the environment of middle school to the high school represents both risk and opportunity for young females. Specifically, young girls are at risk for tobacco experimentation, eating disorders, drug/alcohol use, and relationship abuse. Bob Dolan, STYLE coordinator and workshop director, stated, "Researchers who have done influential work in the field of risk assessment tie together a number of endangering features that place young girls particularly in peril. First, the move from middle to high school is fraught with dangers. Young girls seek acceptance in a new peer group, interact with older, perhaps

"... maximize the protective factors ..."

less health conscious peers, are confronted with serious academic challenges, and generally experience anxiety about the shift from middle to high school life. These factors combined with possible family management issues, family Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) favorable attitudes, academic challenges, low bonding to both the school and a positive peer group increase the challenge of remaining substance and tobacco free for young girls."

Dolan felt the "Women's Issues Day" would maximize the protective factors arising in the individual, school, and community. These objectives were delivered through the workshop via a training design that offered pertinent health information, connected women's health issues across a board spectrum of risk, and provided specific refusal training as well as bonds to significant adults/care providers/peer group. A secondary goal of the workshop was to entertain as they educated. To that end they included strategies that drew participants to attend. In this case, the promise of expert advice in the areas of fashion, dress for success, hair, and make-up attracted girls to learn about women's issues holistically. Approximately 100 participants and facilitators were involved in the event.



Matt Moore (L) and Eric Fierro (R) help Nick Farace (center) as he fills another bag of litter.



Southern To the Rescue

L to R: Bill Southrey, Adelle Berardi, Terrence Doran, Angela Reilly, Caitlyn Thomas, Michele Garabo, Nicole Tauro, Victoria Blanchard, Jacklyn MacFarlane, Juliann Soto, Maria Angellini

Bill Southrey, the CEO and President of the Atlantic City Rescue Mission, presented SRHS with a plaque to thank the school for its generous donation of 10,900 items to the Mission's food pantry in December. This was the largest ever donation ever to the Mission. Accepting the plaque is Adelle Berardi, coordinator of the annual holiday food drive, along with Team Vantmm, the winning team of "apprentices," from Sharon Faith's marketing class. The bottom line was to help Adele Berardi exceed her goal in the food drive. Their clever marketing strategies netted a total contribution of 1,106 food items.



Awards

Brian Baum placed first in Ocean County for the Merck Science Test in Chemistry. The following students also participated and placed in Ocean County: Andrew Genco, third in Chemistry; Michael Hayden, fourth in Chemistry; Sara Kaur, fifth in Chemistry; Shawn Gehringer, ninth in Chemistry; Rebecca Pasqualo, third in Physics.

Senior Joe Simpson was named Youth of the Year by the Beach Haven Exchange Club, a service organization for Southern Ocean County. He received a plaque and a \$500 award. The Exchange Club honored six students during the school year as Youth of the Month. Based on their application and an essay, the Youth of the Year was chosen. The six students for 2004-2005 were: Joe Simpson, Dom Corcuera, Jamie England, Manasa Reddy, Jen Stripay, and Tyler Burnett. Teachers nominated students for their character, academics, and community service. This information was sent to the club, and then they picked the six. Each Youth of the Month received a \$100 savings bond. The Beach Haven Exchange Club, the largest service club scholarship sponsor, is for business people throughout the Southern Ocean Area.

Each year the Friends of the Island Library organization offers students participating in required social studies courses the opportunity to participate in an essay contest. This year's writing contest asked the students to respond to the following quote by George Santayana: *Those who fail to learn from the lessons of history are doomed to repeat it.* Winners received a \$50 check. Jim Wilson, a member of the organization, presented the awards to the following students: Melissa Fekete, Jillian Harth, Ankit Mehta, Hillary Clayton, and Brooke Meelheim from the World History course; Stephanie Badalamenti, Leah Volker, Emily Dunn, Fallon Braun, Courtney Tallon, Caitlyn Delaney, Kendra McKoy, and Joseph Sangiorgio from US History I; Michael Narvaez, Michael Delaney, Ashley Neal, Kathleen Kunze, Gerald Carlucci, Glenn Armstrong, Raymond Garneau, and Samantha Tucker from US History II.

Home and School Association Supports Southern Students



Tara McMenam (center), secretary of the class of 2005, holds the check presented to the class by SRHSA past treasurer Anthony Romeo and past co-spokesperson Suzanne Romeo. Along with McMenam are (L to R) Chris Duncan, treasurer; April Pacheco, president; Jeff Brown, advisor; Michele Collinson, advisor; Diane Gove, activities coordinator.

Receiving a check from Southern Regional Home and School Association past treasurer Anthony Romeo and past co-spokesperson Suzanne Romeo are MS student Gabriellia Caponigro and Principal Lorraine Airey.



Stacey Adams, a co-spokesperson for the Southern Regional Home and School Association, helps Kathy Coates sign up for parent membership at Freshman Orientation.

Students of the Month

April

Grade 9 Siobhan Powers
Grade 10 Richard Schubiger
Grade 11 Sarabjit Kaur
Grade 12 Sherri Ritter

May

Grade 9 Aaron Williams
Grade 10 Danielle Tauro
Grade 11 Mike Alleman
Grade 12 Nick Gramiccioni

June

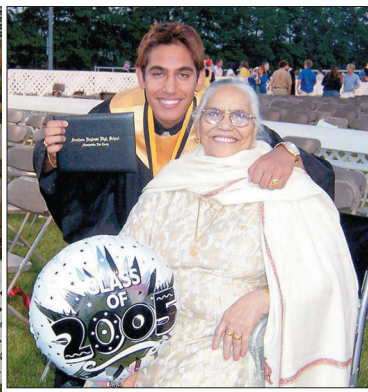
Grade 9 Brandon Snyder
Grade 10 Joseph Sangiorgio
Grade 11 Katelyn Phillips
Grade 12 Kelly Sprague
Emily Merchant

Thunder Team Keeps It Clean

Twenty-seven members of the Thunder Team conducted their first Annual Community Service Project under the direction of teachers Eric Fierro, Matt Moore, Ali Brown, and Susan Hart who organized and facilitated the litter clean-up project. Their eighth grade departmentalized special education students collected trash along Cedar Brigde Road on the Southern Regional School District campus. Their mission was to give back to a community that gives so much to them.



Jennifer Stripay and Manasa Reddy share one last hug before leaving the field after graduation.



Valedictorian Shawn Sikka is congratulated by his grandmother, Maya Doloth, who came from Birmingham, England to attend the graduation ceremony.



The 662 members of the class of 2005 give their hats the traditional celebratory toss at the end of the graduation ceremony.

Teachers Honored

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classroom and a person who displays unique caring for students. She challenges herself everyday to be a role model to her students and to teach them responsibility, accountability, gratitude, compassion, empathy, humanity, national pride, respect, integrity, and humility.

Ellen Plumley, a math teacher in the high school, was nominated for the New Jersey State Teacher of the Year. This competition, which honors the outstanding K-12 teacher in NJ, recognizes achievement in the classroom as well as educational leadership. Plumley dedicates her professional time to learning new ways to teach old concepts and is an active participant in district and departmental initiatives.

Veterans Honored at Appreciation Breakfast

With Freedom and "Old Glory" as their themes, the Middle School Lightning Team honored local veterans with a student program of patriotic essays, poems, music, and artwork at a Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast in the MS Cafeteria. The year-long project helped students connect faces to those that helped change the course of American history.

Lynn Lapsley, social studies teacher and breakfast program coordinator, stated, "The students were very excited about the breakfast. We had many discussions in class since September about the role of veterans in our society and our community and how important they are to the way of life that we experience in the United States today."

The students were able to interact with the veterans as they were having breakfast with them by asking questions about their experiences while they were in the military and what their lives were like now. Some of the veterans that attended were parents and uncles. However, many of the students did not have any family members in the military or even grandparents that were still alive. So they felt this personal contact was a great experience

because it provided a way for them to relate to something that they were unfamiliar with.

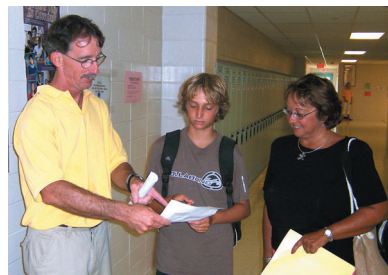
The veterans represented many different wars including WWII, Vietnam, and the Gulf War. Two Long Beach Island policemen who recently returned from Iraq were also in attendance.

At the end, the students presented the two quilted banners displayed on the stage that they worked very hard to put together. June Blauvelt and her high school students assisted them by sewing the background of the quilts.

Class of 2009 Freshman Orientation



L to R: Advisors Kathi Cornelius and Sue Sattan along with Principal Eric Wilhelm help Steven Sprague purchase school supplies which were on sale as a class fundraiser.



Brian Delaporte and his mother, Maria, receive help reading his schedule from Student Assistance Counselor Mike Armstrong.

Did You Know

Southern Regional Amnesty International (AI) members, Sara Kaur and Sara Passaro, were accepted for a weekend retreat on human rights at Douglass College after a rigorous application process. They were two of only 10 young women selected from 150 applicants. The group explored global as well as local human rights issues. The SR chapter of AI is a sanctioned, active, local student chapter under the direction of advisor Cecile Kelley. They meet on a regular basis and carry out various activities in regards to the purposes of AI.

Kim-DeGraw Cole, SR athletic director, was named to the 18-person state task force created by acting Governor Richard Codey to examine the use of steroids in high school. Their goal is to determine the extent of the

problem in this state and then to develop a statewide policy for high school athletes. Their report is due to Cody by December 1.

Joe Sangiorio, class of 2007, participated in the National Student Leadership Conference at American University in Washington, DC this summer. He joined other gifted high school students from across the US and from 45 countries around the world to experience politics in our nation's capital. They met leading political advisors and government experts, created their own Presidential or Issue Advocacy Campaign, studied political science, and learned the public policy process.

The Southern Regional cheerleading squads attended summer camp in the Poconos in August. Both the Varsity Black Squad, coached by Jackie South, and the Varsity Gold Squad, coached by Jenn Bent and Lisa Key, had a highly successful experience. The Varsity Gold placed first in both Cheer and Extreme Routine in the Varsity Game Squad Division. The Varsity Black placed second in Cheer in the Varsity Elite Division. Seniors Heather Wilke and Lauren Segarra were named UCA All Stars along with junior Alexandria Friedman and freshmen Meghan Mathis, Chanel Rhoden, and Samantha Woodlee.

Themes Guide Students

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who demonstrate this characteristic. Staff members wore their black PRIDE shirts to welcome students back on September 7. Yellow PRIDE shirts are available for students to purchase and wear with "pride."

HS students are being challenged to be CLASSY and remember Cooperation Launches Another Successful School Year. Posters in classrooms, hallways, and cafeterias displaying this message greeted students on opening day and will remain up all year.

Adult School Corner

The Adult School Diploma Program conducted its Graduation Ceremony in June for 23 students. In keeping with its mission as "the educational center of Southern Ocean County," Southern Regional offers the only evening diploma program in the area thus providing a service to all of Southern Ocean County in this regard.

The Adult School Fall Brochure is now posted on the district web site (srsd.net) on the home page under Adult School and contains a complete listing and description of all courses. The Enrichment Program, which begins on September 19, offers over 100 courses in the areas of fitness and wellness, computer instruction, hobbies and interests, and finance and business. Many new courses have been added in these areas and will begin with the fall session.



L to R: Marisa Conklin and Joe Annarumma watch Jessica Gile as she points to the below 0 degrees thermometer she made to represent the upper mid-western states especially North Dakota.

Students of Eileen Beirne and Phyllis Bowerfind did a fantastic job completing a quilt as the culmination of a year-long geography project. Their self-contained classes studied regions of the United States. On the quilt each region is represented by a nine square section. Students were assigned a region and were responsible for all the squares in that section. They researched and decided what to put on the fabric.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Enrollment September 7, 2005</p> <p>Grade 07 - 499 students</p> <p>Grade 08 - 504 students</p> <p>Grade 09 - 613 students</p> <p>Grade 10 - 526 students</p> <p>Grade 11 - 778 students</p> <p>Grade 12 - 700 students</p> |
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