

Class of 2015 9th Grade Newsletter

August/September 2011 Edition

Student Service Team

Associate Principal	Ms. Donlon (Main Office)
Assistant Principal	Mr. Gutchell (Main Office)
Guidance Counselor	Mr. Hart (A-Ge)
Guidance Counselor	Ms. Payne (Gf-Mo)
Guidance Counselor	Mr. Roberts (Mp-Z)
Class Advisors	Ms. Engel/Ms. Sauer
Social Worker	Ms. Schuhl
School Psychologist	Ms. Ouckama
Intervention Counselor	Ms. Grygiel-Thompson
School Nurse	Ms. Peterson-Tice

It is our pleasure to welcome you to Shenendehowa High School! We are excited to have you begin your high school journey with us and look forward to working with you over the next four years. It is our goal to help you achieve your full potential as a student and a young adult. While many opportunities for your success exist, it will be your responsibility to set your goals. These should include academic and co-curricular activities that are offered at Shenendehowa High School.

Agenda books will be distributed to all ninth grade students. To make things a little bit easier, the high school has compiled a “general” school supply list for students in grades 9-12. You can go to the high school page on shenet.org to view it. Classroom teachers may provide more specific subject supply information during the first week of school.

Your Student Service Team members are here to assist and advise you in your high school transition. We will be monitoring your progress to ensure a successful year. Do not hesitate to drop by and visit with any team member in their office during your lunch period or after school.

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, August 31st & Thursday, September 1st – Freshman Walkthrough (HS WEST) 10am-2pm (students may visit school and classroom areas)
- Wednesday, August 31st – Ice Cream Social (HS WEST) 12:00-1:00pm
- Monday, September 5th – No School (Labor Day)
- Tuesday, September 6th – No School (Superintendent’s Conference Day)
- Wednesday, September 7th – First Day of School
- Tuesday, Sept. 13 & Wednesday, Sept. 14 – School Pictures (during all gym classes)

- **Friday, September 23th – Homecoming (Football Game, 7pm)**
- **Thursday, September 29th – No School (Rosh Hashanah)**

Academic Resource Center (ARC)

The Academic Resource Center (or ARC for short) is a place for students to go to get assistance with their classwork from University at Albany students, along with Shenendehowa staff members and community volunteers. Located across the hall from the Library at High School West, the ARC is open Periods 1-9 and can be accessed during study hall periods. Need help? Make sure to head over to the ARC!

Dress Code Guidelines

Students that come to school dressed appropriately help foster an environment that is conducive for learning. Because of this, the dress code will be strictly enforced by high school faculty, staff, and administration. The following provides an overview of the Dress Code Guidelines at Shenendehowa, developed by the High School Dress Code Committee, which consisted of representation from the student body and community members, along with staff and administrators. Please see the Board of Education Code of Conduct for more detailed information and specific examples.

- Students should wear clothing that fully covers all undergarments. Shirt and dress straps should be as wide as the straps of any undergarments, including bra straps and underwear. In addition, a student's undergarments should not be visible *through* the clothing.
- Students should wear clothing that fully covers all private areas, including the midriff and upper/lower back.
- Skirts should be at least mid-thigh in length.
- When leggings or tights are worn, they are to be covered by a shirt, skirt, or dress that is at least mid-thigh in length.
- Shorts should cover all private areas and undergarments, and not be revealing in any way.
- Students should wear footwear that is safe and appropriate for school and school- related activities.
- If clothing contains images or words, these must be appropriate for the school setting.
- The following are just some examples of clothing that is not appropriate for the academic setting of school: tube tops, halter tops, revealing tank tops, form-fitting skirts, athletic jersey tank tops, and t-shirts with messages that promote sexual activity or drug use.

The High School administration reserves the right to determine if a student's attire is appropriate for school. If students are wearing inappropriate clothing, they will be expected to change their clothes, to cover up their attire, or to be picked up from school immediately.

Co-Curricular Activities/Clubs

We encourage each of you to take an active part in **your** Shenendehowa High School history. Joining an activity or club can enrich your high school experience! Listed below you will find a selection of clubs to consider joining in your freshman year. Listen during morning announcements or check out the Club Central bulletin board located across from the High School West Library for meeting date and time information.

Best Buddies:

The local chapter is associated with an international non-profit organization. The group pairs students with special needs in one-to-one friendships with their non-disabled peers. The goal is to establish foundations for genuine friendships, thus enriching the lives of all participants. Membership is open to all 9th through 12th grade students. The club will meet monthly.

Breakfast Club:

This club promotes Character Education, including Time to Shine, and assists in projects.

Class Council:

Each class has a governing body. Membership is open to any interested student. Members raise money for key activities for the class.

Creative Writing:

Students like having the opportunity to write creatively and have an audience of supportive peers to offer advice and encouragement.

Drama Club and HS Musical:

Students audition for parts and put on an annual drama production – typically held in the late Fall. Students audition for parts in the annual musical production of a hit play to be performed in the Spring.

Environment Club:

This club educates students, staff, and community members on environmental issues through speakers (Earth Day) and its recycling program.

Mock Trial:

Students compete in mock trials designed by the New York State Bar Association. Weekly meetings are held.

LOTE (Peace Program):

Exchange Program between students at the high school and students in France. (Each high school building has its own program.)

Respect Club:

By bringing together students of different backgrounds and opinions, this group fosters respect for every individual's talents and creativities. The group meets weekly to plan engaging activities for all the students that will encourage tolerance, acceptance, and respect in the school's environment.

SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions):

Students work to prevent drinking and driving accidents by sponsoring speakers, demonstrations, and safe Spring activities.

Shen Pen (Student Newspaper):

The purpose of the student newspaper is to publicize information about the people and events of Shenendehowa High School East and West. Students cover school and athletic events, write opinion articles, and take photographs for publication. They are also trained to do page design and layout as part of the pre-press requirement.

Ski Club:

Students travel to Jiminy Peak Ski Resort in Massachusetts on a charter bus to and from school. They ski or snowboard and may take lessons to learn or improve their skills. Equipment may be rented if necessary. They return to the High School between 9:00 and 9:30.

Yearbook:

Students plan and edit the annual written and pictorial account of the school year. Staff members take pictures, write copy, plan layouts, and edit *The Carillon* before publication and sale.

World of Difference:

The World of Difference Peer Training Program is designed to infuse the ideals of diversity within the school community.

MAJOR EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to:

1. Attend school every day unless legally excused.
2. Be on time to homeroom and all scheduled classes.
3. Complete all assignments on time and to their best ability.
4. Sign out and/or leave the school building only if they have prior permission.
5. Have a pass whenever they are out of a classroom.
6. Be in authorized/supervised school areas only.
7. Refrain from using language or gestures that are profane, disrespectful, or abusive.
8. Dress appropriately for our school learning environment.
9. Be respectful toward all school employees, their fellow classmates, and school property.
10. Leave school at 2:40pm each day unless attending a supervised school activity.

Before School Offerings

After the bus drops you off in the morning, you will have an opportunity before homeroom starts to prepare your mind and body for the school day ahead. The following pre-homeroom offerings are available to meet your needs:

- Breakfast in the Cafeteria
- Conduct research and/or work on assignments in the library or library computer lab, or visit Quiet Study in Room 68 for a place to do your schoolwork free from distractions
- Meet with a teacher for extra help (by appointment)
- Morning Activities in the Gymnasium—Various Intramurals and pick-up games will be offered beginning 9/12.

