

The South High News

Take advantage of Career Center offerings



The Career Center, located across from the main office in the heart of the school, welcomes all students and parents! Come see us for information about careers, colleges, testing, financial aid, and more. We are open from 8:00-3:30 when school is in session, and our volunteers love to help.

This year the Career Center and counselors are offering a new 9-week class called College and Career Survey. Each week students focus on one aspect of planning for the future, figuring out

which education and career options might work for them. Students receive 2.5 credits for weekly meetings and assignments. Non-IHS juniors and seniors may sign up for the class this fall; sophomores may take it 2nd semester.

Upcoming dates:

SAT/ACT tests: Check the SEHS website for specific dates.

Freshman Night: November 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.

ASVAB test: December 13th from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. at SEHS.

College Visitations: Throughout the fall, check the SEHS website for specific dates. www.sehs.lane.edu/resources/career-center/visits.html

Excuse absences any time—day or night

When your student is absent, please call the attendance office (within two days) in order to record their excused absence. Attendance office voice mail is available 24 hours a day for your convenience. The attendance office provides a daily report to the teachers showing all absences, which have been excused, from the previous three days.

Some teachers request a note upon the student's return to class. The note however does not clear the absence on the student records in attendance. Your call to the attendance is still necessary.

If you receive a call from attendance

that you question, please call Pat Thomas in the attendance office, 687-3129 and check it out. If there is a forecasted absence, students should pick up a

planned absence report in the attendance office and have their teachers sign it ahead of time. This completes the record, for the planned absence and affords students the opportunity to check with their teach-

ers about homework and any effects this time may have on their grades. Please refer to the Parent Handbook for additional information regarding attendance policies.

Pat Thomas, Attendance

Attendance in a nutshell

CALL 687-3129
the attendance office
to excuse
student absences.

*Notes given to teachers
do not correct the student's record.*

• NOVEMBER •

- 1 Musical
- 2 Homecoming Dance
Dorians at Salem Jazz Festival
- 5 Election Day
- 6 Parent Council
- 7-9 Musical
- 8 Progress Reports Noon Release
- 11 Veterans Day No School
- 12 Concert Choir & Metro Choral Festival @ Willamette High
- 20 Freshmen Night
- 21 Site Council
- 22 Health Occupation Blood Drive
Jazz Concert
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday/No School

• DECEMBER •

- 4 Parent Council
String Ensemble/LCC Orchestra
- 5 String Orchestra, Concert Band & Jazz Concert
- 6-7 LCC Jazz Ensemble Festival
- 11 Financial Aid Night
- 12 Wind Ensemble Concert
- 13 Progress Reports Early Release
ASB Winter Dance
- 13-14 Play
- 18 Choir Concert
- 19 Site Council
- 19-21 Play
- 23 Winter Break Begins

• JANUARY •

- 6 Staff Development Day/No School
- 7 Classes Resume
- 8 Parent Council
- 10 Talent Show
- 16 Site Council
- 17-18 UO Jazz Festival @ UO
- 20 Martin Luther King Holiday/No School
- 29 General Parent Meeting
- 29 Finals 1-3-5-7
- 30 Finals 2-4-6-8
- 31 Grading Day/No School

South online: www.sehs.lane.edu
South main office: 541.687.3201

Principal's Letter



Dear South Families,
When the going gets tough...
Well, you know the rest!

South Eugene students, staff, and parents certainly faced a number of daunting challenges as we returned to school this fall. Uncertain funding, program reductions, and burgeoning class sizes conspired with the sudden illness of our head secretary to test our resiliency. In response,

our school community reached into its reservoir of commitment and energy to produce one of the best starts we've seen at South Eugene High School.

Our office staff did a magnificent job of closing ranks and filling a significant void created by the absence of Brenda Down. (Brenda, suffering a stroke just a week before school began, is now home and gaining strength every day. A full recovery is expected.) As Tami Johnson moved over to assume the role of Office Coordinator, South parent and former Roosevelt Head Secretary, Claudia Carmichael joined us in the front office.

Our custodial staff sustained a significant reduction in hours, making it impossible to cover the building needs as they once could. Nevertheless, by prioritizing and economizing tasks, our outstanding crew made sure we returned to a clean and safe building.

The South teaching staff, anticipating larger classes and fewer resources, made a conscious choice to concentrate on what they know and do best: *TEACHING AND LEARNING*. Although the current intensity level and pace will test our endurance over time, classroom climate is very positive. In a time when we hear much about heroes...mine are right here!

Returning South students seemed to demonstrate a similar resolve for creating a successful and positive school year. Our seniors have shown exceptional leadership and our freshmen,

great promise. With strong 10th and 11th grade classes, we may be seeing one of the finest four-year populations in some time.

And what of South parents? Never timid of showing support for quality education, South area parents continue to lead the charge on the State Legislature to develop sustained funding for Oregon Public Schools. In the meantime, parent-to-parent appeals have secured enough funding through E.E.F. to purchase two (soon to be three) additional class sections at South. Combined with four other class sections funded through *at-risk* grants, parents are joining hands with the school to mitigate against ongoing program reductions. While all of these class sections funded on soft money will disappear at year's end, they're making a big difference for current students.

Please don't misunderstand my positive spin on the school year. I desperately wish for the additional resources allowing us to return the programs and services our students deserve; at very least, those enjoyed by their older brothers and sisters. However, while the funding debates continue; as the voters return yet again (and again) to the polls; and as the threat of a shortened school year gains momentum, I feel fortunate to be in a community so supportive of schools and kids.

Creating a positive and successful school experience is a conscious and affirmative choice. In a school community renowned for the value assigned to choice, it seems apparent that this is the one we've made.

Despite it all, we're choosing to have a great year!

Sincerely,

Jerry B. Henderson

Eugene Education Fund offers many benefits

One of the many ways you can help South High students is to contribute through 4J's foundation (the Eugene Education Fund). In these times of uncertain funding, gifts are especially appreciated.

South High Students benefit not only from your earmarked gift (allocated by our site-council to important needs) but also from your unrestricted gift. The EEF board uses unrestricted gifts to fund proposals submitted by our site-council as well as programs that serve all schools.

In recent years, EEF contributions have funded South's Peer Program as well as mental health services in the School Based Clinic. This year, a direct appeal to our most supportive donors resulted in the funding of an additional math class, with a second class section is being considered. With class sizes now moving into the forties, every additional course section makes a big difference for students.



Of course this kind of classroom funding is "soft" and disappears at the end of each year. Until we get a system of sustained, adequate school funding from the state, we need to sustain our efforts to support our kids.

Form unrestricted EEF contributions, South staff members have requested and received grants that helped to fund an Earth Science Class, specialized Peer Group training and a school Debate Club.

Community gifts for support of Eugene schools added up to a record \$501,927 in 2001.

A variety of funded programs are highlighted in each EEF newsletter, which includes a remittance envelope for your use.

Please consider supporting our students with a check payable to "South High EEF" sent to P.O. Box 1015, Eugene, Oregon 97440.

Providing the Basics - and Beyond! www.eef.lane.edu

Q & A about Ballot Measure 20-67

Residents of Eugene will be voting on a funding measure on the November 5 ballot that would provide funds for local schools, Measure 20-67. Some questions and answers about the measure:

What is Measure 20-67?

Measure 20-67 is a four-year property tax levy, to pay for youth-focused and school-based services.

How much money would Measure 20-67 raise and what would the funds go to?

Measure 20-67 would raise about \$31.5 million over four years, with 93 percent going to the Eugene and Bethel school districts for elementary music and physical education, athletics and student activities at middle schools and high schools, as well as counselors, librarians and school nurses. Charter schools and alternative education programs would receive a share of the funds to pay for these activities. The City of Eugene would use the remainder for youth recreation.

What would be Measure 20-67's impact on 4J?

The Eugene School District would receive about \$6 million per year for four years. This would preserve existing programs and staff in the areas listed above and reduce the amount of budget cuts the district might have to make in the future, if state funding is reduced.

When would funds from Measure 20-67 be available to schools, and when would the levy go into effect?

Funds would be available for the 2003-04 school year budget. Property owners would see the levy on their fall 2003 property tax statement.

How would Measure 20-67 funds be distributed to schools?

Each school will receive funds, based on student enrollment. These funds may only be used for elementary music and PE, counseling, and media specialists. Each school will decide specifically how to use the funds. High school and middle school athletics and student activities and school nurses will also be funded at the current level with levy monies.

How much would Measure 20-67 cost?

The tax rate would be 86 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The four-year levy would cost about \$137 starting next year, for an average home within both the City of Eugene and Eugene School District boundaries.

What are the Nov. 5 election details?

Ballots are mailed to registered voters October 18. This is a vote-by-mail election.

Ballots must be returned to official election locations by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5.

What is the budget situation in the Eugene School District?

Heading into the 2002-03 budget year, the Eugene School District met an \$8 million revenue shortfall with program cuts and one-time savings, freezes and other measures. That included eliminating 79 full-time positions, including 55 teaching positions. The Eugene School District still has a budget gap of more than \$3 million for the current school year. The Legislature has referred a statewide income tax increase to voters that would cover that amount. School funding for next year is also uncertain, since the state predicts a budget deficit of more than \$1 billion for the next biennium.

What happened with Measure 19 from the September 17 election?

Measure 19, passed by voters in the Sept. 17, 2002 election, created a "rainy day fund" for K-12 public education from state lottery revenue. It used \$150 million to fund schools this year. Measure 19 leaves \$128 million in the "rainy day fund" for future economic downturns. In the Eugene School District, Measure 19 provided about \$4.7 million for school operations this year only.

What about the state income tax measure referred by the Legislature?

In a special January 28, 2003 election, Oregon voters will decide on a temporary income tax increase to help fund schools and other state services. The increase of about 5 percent in personal and business income taxes would be in effect for three years. If that measure failed, the Eugene School District would have a further revenue shortfall of about \$3 million for the current year (the fiscal year that ends June 30, 2003). The estimated annual tax increase for an average household would be \$114.

Are there groups working for or against Measure 20-67?

A Political Action Committee has been formed in support of Measure 20-67, "Yes for Schools" (www.yesforschools.net; 606-2067). As of this writing, no group had organized in opposition to the measure. Political Action Committees or other groups organized in opposition to the measure that would like contact information included in future publications should contact the Eugene School District Communications office at 687-3309.



Bus pass prices

New prices for the LTD monthly bus passes will be sold at South Eugene for \$17.50 beginning September 30th. We are standardizing our prices with Lane Transit District.

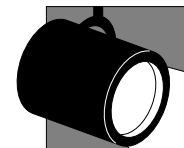


Student Parent Handbook

The Student Parent Handbook is available on the SE website. You may also stop by the main office and pick up a hardcopy.

Stop, drop & dance

Most of the school dances take place in the cafeteria, which is located in the back of the building. Please drop off and pick up your student behind the school. Dances are from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. The next dance will be Saturday, November 2nd.



New York opening

This year, students in 19th Avenue Promotions developed opening and closing animation sequences for a feature length documentary titled Umatilla." The film, directed by R.J. McHatton, shows a historical perspective on the controversial Umatilla Chemical Weapons Depot in Eastern Oregon. It is being shown in New York City's Independent Film Project Market, under the category "Spotlight On Documentaries." IFPM is an offshoot of the New York Film Festival, a nationally recognized film competition. The students who created the animation sequences are Travis Edison, Ashlee Foster, Alex Ihnut, Peter Kelley, David Seltzer, and Aaron Sullivan.

