

The Student Services Source

South County Secondary School-Middle School

March 2009

A Note from the Director of Student Services

Kathy A. Reese

Congratulations to the 519 Middle School Scholars who were honored at the 2nd quarter honor roll reception on February 20th. We applaud our first time recipients and commend those scholars who are continuing to accept the challenge to strive for excellence by maintaining honor roll status for another quarter.

We are rapidly approaching the end of the 3rd quarter and interim reports were mailed home on March 5th. Enclosed with the 3rd quarter interims were letters notifying parents of students who are in jeopardy of failing in certain core subjects. This letter is another method of keeping parents informed regarding student progress as well as offering avenues of help for improving student achievement. Please contact the middle school counselor with questions or concerns regarding your student's progress. It is imperative that we remind students to increase their focus on successfully managing time and completing academic tasks.

Spring is the season of SOL testing, and we began this great undertaking on March 3rd and 4th with the English Multiple Choice and Direct Writing components of the test. Please check the important dates section of this newsletter for the complete spring testing windows. Also continue to check the SCSS website for all pertinent testing updates. This is an important time for students, and we encourage you to help your child be successful by ensuring that he/she is at school on time, well rested and nourished with a nutritious breakfast.

As we make plans for the upcoming school year, the student services department is also in the season of academic advising and course selection for our rising 7th and 8th grade students. At the Middle School Curriculum Night, on February 11th, parents and students were able to gain information about the registration process and attend the curriculum/electives fair hosted by the SCSS instructional staff.

Counselors visited the elementary feeder schools during the month of February to assist the rising 7th graders with course selections. Classroom visits to share course selection information with rising 8th grade students will take place on March 9th and 10th. Please review and discuss all course selection materials with your student to assist him/her in making appropriate choices for the 2009-2010 school year. As always the Student Services Department is happy to provide assistance to our SCSS families to help insure the best middle school experience for all students.

Student Services Department

Kathy Reese

Director of Student Services
703.446.1640

Bernadette Angelo

Student Information Assistant
703.446.1640

Haroula Foukara

Student Services Assistant
703.446.1636

Layla Gorman

Parent Liaison
703.446.1714

Ed Grady

Testing Coordinator
703.446.1814

School Counselors

Mercedes Allen

Voyagers & Routers (M-Z)
703.446.1703

Rachel Emmer

Dream Team (A-Mn)
& Team Java
703.446.1705

Susan Martinez

Navigators & Routers (A-L)
703.446.1706

Nicole Shaw

Dream Team (Mo-Z)
& Team Fusion
703.446.1704

Dates to Remember

3rd Quarter Interim Reports Mailed	March 5
Rising 8th Grade Course Selection Sheets Due	March 18
3rd Quarter Ends	April 2
Student Holiday	April 3
Spring Break	April 6-10
4th Quarter Begins	April 13
3rd Quarter Report Cards	April 17
Honor Roll Reception	April 30
4th Quarter Interims Reports Mailed	May 14
SOL Window Begins	May 18
Memorial Day Holiday	May 25

***Please be aware that interim reports are mailed home and report cards are distributed to students in school.**

Course Selection 2009-2010

The middle school counselors will be visiting seventh grade science classes the week of March 9th to provide information about eighth grade course selection. During the orientation the seventh graders will receive the 2009-2010 Middle School Course Selection Guide along with a course selection sheet. The students will have a week to discuss course choices with their parents/guardians before the completed sheet needs to be returned to their science teacher.

We encourage students to carefully select the courses which best meet their needs and interests. Students should be prepared to commit to courses chosen during registration as teacher staffing is based on student choices. With elective courses, every effort is made to accommodate student selections, but we cannot guarantee placement in any particular course. If you have any questions about course selections, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school counselor.



ASSESSMENT UPDATE

May SOL Testing

The Spring SOL tests will be administered May 18th-29th. Seventh grade students will take Math, History, and Reading SOL tests. Eighth graders will take Math or Algebra 1, Civics, Reading, and Science SOL tests. All tests will be given on-line this year. Once finalized, the May testing calendar will be posted on the South County website.

Website resources for SOL prep:

The Virginia Department of Education website provides links to past SOL tests for student review:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Assessment/releasedtests.html>

SOL math practice:

<http://education.jlab.org/solquiz/index.html>

The Career Center at SCSS

The Career Center at South County is a service of the Student Services Department. The Career Center provides a framework of career awareness, career exploration, and career preparation activities for students to make the essential connection between school and career. It's never too early to help your student think about the career they might want to pursue. As your student progresses through middle school and beyond, we encourage you to take advantage of this valuable resource.

If you have any further questions or wish to make an appointment with the career center specialist, please contact Gayle Ostrom at 703-446-1915 or Gayle.Ostrom@fcps.edu. Below are some useful tips and websites to encourage your student to learn about different careers.

Ask your student what their favorite subjects in school are and use this website to find applicable careers.

www.careercruising.com

username: scounty

password: stallions

Investigate area college programs or summer camps that may interest your student.

Summer Opportunities database on Career Center website:

<http://commweb.fcps.edu/summeropportunities/ProgramSearch.cfm>

Look at a some college websites together to see the various majors/degrees that are offered.

Discuss the types of jobs/careers there are the next time you are on vacation (ex: jobs at a theme park/restaurants etc.).