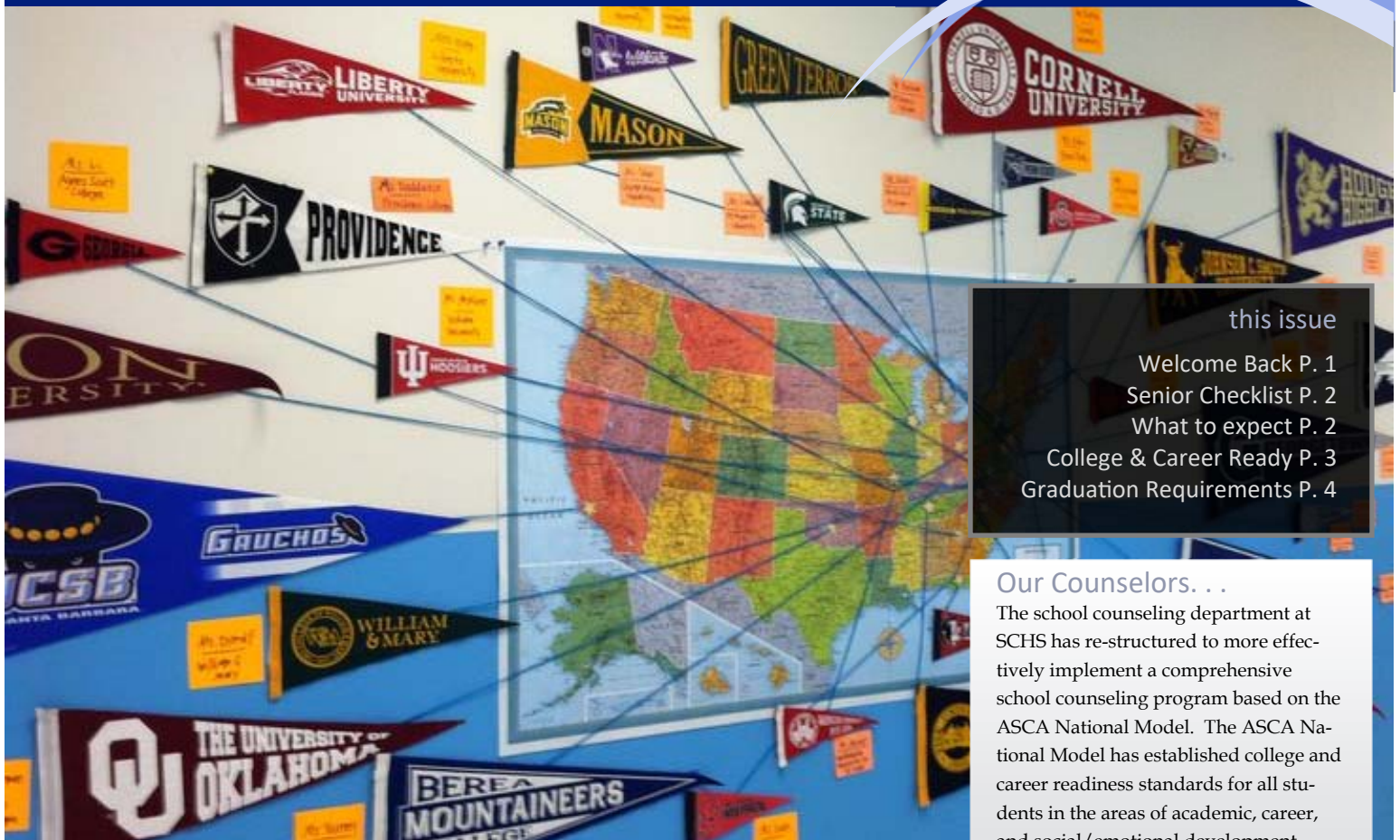


# The Golden Knight

Sussex Central High School Guidance Department Newsletter

ISSUE 6 FALL 2018



## this issue

- Welcome Back P. 1
- Senior Checklist P. 2
- What to expect P. 2
- College & Career Ready P. 3
- Graduation Requirements P. 4

## Our Counselors. . .

The school counseling department at SCHS has re-structured to more effectively implement a comprehensive school counseling program based on the ASCA National Model. The ASCA National Model has established college and career readiness standards for all students in the areas of academic, career, and social/emotional development.

Class of 2019 Counselor – Mrs. Keeler

Class of 2020 Counselor – Mr. Thomas

Class of 2021 Counselor – Mrs. Bird

Class of 2022 Counselor – Mrs. Reid

College and Career Counselor (11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade student support) – Mrs. James

Academic Support Counselor (9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> grade student support) – Ms. Targonski



## SCHS School Counseling Mission

Our mission as Sussex Central High School Counselors is to ensure that all students are globally competitive by providing a safe learning environment and the support to maximize student potential in order to fulfill their responsibilities as citizens. Our program will focus on the needs, interests and issues related to the stages of student growth through academic, career and personal/social development.

## Golden Knights...Welcome Back!

We hope you have enjoyed your summer break and are ready to return for a school year of learning and student activities. The SCHS Counseling Department is excited to have an opportunity to work with each of you. Throughout your high school experience, you will find our services to be an integral part of your education. It is the collective vision of the SCHS School Counseling Department, that you acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to reach your fullest potential and successfully manage your lives as healthy responsible, competent and productive citizens who respect yourselves and others. The School Counseling Department is comprised of six School Counselors assigned to students by year of Graduation. This school year will be filled with many exciting grade-level opportunities! As your School Counselors, we are here to help you navigate your Pathway to Graduation. The goals of the SCHS Guidance Department are: to assist students with College and Career Readiness Goal Planning and/or Application Process, nurture acquisition of Self-Awareness and Employment Readiness Skills, Student Success Planning, Academic Skills Support, Test Preparation, Post-Secondary Planning, and help cultivate Interpersonal Awareness.

Please review your student schedule to ensure you have all the required courses you must successfully complete in order to meet graduation requirements (English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Career Pathways and Elective Courses). SCHS is observes semester block schedule. Therefore, you should have five 74-minute classes every day. This provides you with an opportunity to finish a course in one semester instead of a full school year. In the second semester, outside of a few exceptions you may have five new classes. If you have a grade-level specific question, please contact your assigned School Counselor with any questions or concerns regarding your schedule.

# On your mark...Class of 2019

This moment marks the beginning of your students' final year of high school. Seniors will have many opportunities to complete their Post-Secondary Plans. Collectively



each student will navigate college and career

options available

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be made



available to apply for financial aid as early as October 1st , 2018, please

visit the following website to find out more information. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

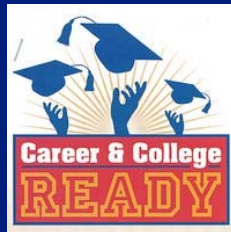
- Delaware Goes to College initiative focuses on college and career readiness skills to help better prepare your student for life after high school . Your student will partake in various post-secondary activities to aid your student in developing skills for immediate entry into the workforce or college readiness.



- Your student will be given the opportunity to complete

College Applications during College Application Month . SCHS will be hosting our College Application week October 22-October 26, 2018. During this week application fees are waived for applications submitted to Delaware Colleges &/or Universities.

- It's decision time for your Senior. This major life decision is an exhilarating event for you and your



student. However, deciding which college to attend must be made in a thoughtful manner. You and your student should compare

financial aid packages, award letters, and school's which may be beyond your family means in order to make the most informed decision for you and your family. Make sure your student has applied for scholarships and continue to encourage your student to check the Scholarship Listings in the Guidance Office. Also the 2018-2019 Delaware Scholarship Compendium (prepared by the Delaware Higher Education Office) will be made available to help your student with their investigation process , visit the Delaware Goes to College website at [www.http://scholarships.delawaregoestocollege.org/](http://www.scholarships.delawaregoestocollege.org/)

Don't forget to save for those senior year obligations such as College Application Fees, Senior Portraits , Cap & Gown, and Prom.



Upcoming Events. . .

**SAVE THE DATE**

**COMING UP**

## College Planning Programs

### September:

9/20: Senior Parent Information Night, 6 PM

9/27: Paying for College @ IRHS (\$Stand By Me) -6 pm

### October:

10/2: Parent Conferences 5:30 -8:00 pm

10/2: Paying for College @ SCHS (\$stand by Me) 4 PM

10/10: PSAT Administration

10/22-10/26: SCHS College Application Week

10/25: Scholarship Workshop & Fair @ 6 PM-SCHS (\$stand By Me)

### November:

11/1: Pagar por la Universidad @ SCHS (\$stand By Me)-6pm

11/15 FAFSA Submission Event @ SCHS 4 PM (\$Stand By Me)

### December:

12/12: FAFSA Submission Event English & Spanish @ SCHS (\$stand By Me) 4 PM

### February:

2/6: FAFSA Submission Event @ IRHS 4 PM (\$Stand By Me)

**THE COMMON APPLICATION**  
For Undergraduate College Admission

I'm a Sussex Central graduate and Alumni of Wesley College and Wilmington College.

This is my fourteenth year as a school counselor - having began in 2004 as an intern at Sussex Central. I worked for the Caesar Rodney School District for nearly ten years, then Carver Academy and Millsboro Middle as my way to get back into the Indian River School District.

I have also worked for the Adult Ed Dept/James H. Groves High School at Sussex Tech for fifteen years and am an adjunct instructor in Wilmington University's graduate counseling degree program.

I love to play golf and work on weekends and in the summer at the Peninsula Golf and Country Club.

I'm married to my wife, Kimberly, and we have two kids, ages six and eight and live in Georgetown.



## What to Expect (cont'd):

### Underclassmen...Looking Ahead

▪ **PSAT:** Junior Administration of the PSAT will be held on Wednesday, October 10, 2018. Space is limited available for this opportunity, therefore payment is required at the time of registration. The cost is \$ 16. Juniors must sign-up in the School Counseling Office.

▪ It is never too soon to research colleges &/or careers. Creating a list of colleges, careers & interests will aid in identifying schools/career pathways that are appropriate for your student .

▪ **Get Involved:** SCHS has a lot to offer our student body in regards to clubs & activities. The Guidance Department will host our annual SCHS Club Fair in September during student lunches. During this time your student will be able to gather information about the various clubs available at SCHS. Please stay tuned for a complete list of club or activities, which will be made available on our school website or have your student make an appointment to meet with his/her School Counselor. Participation in a school-sponsored club or activity not only looks great on a college application, but the benefits are essential in enhancing interpersonal skills necessary for life.

▪ **Tour college campuses.** If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit colleges and see what they're like. Even if you have no interest in attending the college you are visiting, it will help you learn what to look for in a college. We encourage

you to use this time to schedule a Campus Tour, in order to make an informed decision about the school of choice.

### ▪ **ARW/Math 180**

SCHS parents - here is some information regarding Academic Reading & Writing and Math 180 you should know. In our hope to better prepare your student with College & Career Readiness success, we provide targeted intervention in the areas of Reading and Math. The following courses might appear on your son/daughter's schedule. The purpose for these courses are as follows:

#### Academic Reading & Writing

Targeted Intervention for Student Success Plan (T.I.S.S). Students are identified based on the following criteria: below grade level performance on Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI), Smarter Balance Test Scores, ELA performance, and Teacher Recommendation.

- Tier II classroom: focuses on reading comprehension and/or reading fluency strategies.

- Tier III classroom: focuses on vocabulary building and phonics, a foundational element of reading instruction. Students are assessed continually to measure their current progress and level of reading ability. When students meet a certain criteria, they essentially test out of the course.

#### Math 180

Students are identified for this targeted intervention based on the following criteria: below grade level performance on Scholastic Math Inventory (SMI), Smarter Balance Test Scores, Math performance, and Teacher Recommendation. The curriculum utilized for this course focuses on the foundational math skills necessary to be successful in the regular grade level curriculum. Students are assessed continually to measure their current progress and level of mathematical ability. When students meet a certain criteria, they essentially test out of the course.

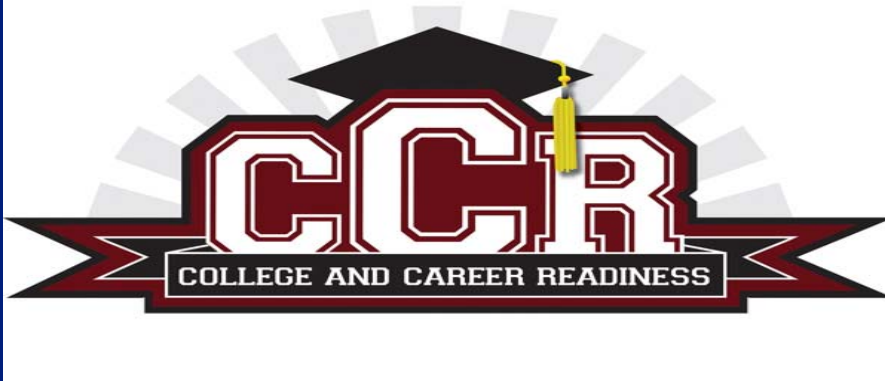
## SCHS Schedule Change Policy

Schedule changes may be made during the first week of school (September 4-11, 2018). Course Change Request Forms are located in the School Counseling Office, parent/guardian signatures are **required**.

Schedule changes are **ONLY** made for academic purposes. The following examples of reasons are **NOT** considered acceptable for schedule changes:

- Student/Parent does not like the teacher
- Teacher is too hard/strict
- Student wants a different lunch





**Volunteer Service Credit:**

The Delaware Volunteer Resource Center offers the Delaware Volunteer Service Credit Program which students in Grades 9-12 can earn one (1) High School Elective Credit in return for Community Service. For more details, please visit: <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dssc/volresctr.html>

SCHS hosts a volunteer fair each spring to learn about local volunteer opportunities.

## Staying Connected. . .

### Home Access Center

Home/School Communication is a key component to student success. Home Access Center Parent Portal allows you as the parent/guardian to monitor your student's progress, assignment completion, attendance, and credits earned. If you still need to sign up for the Parent Portal, please contact one of our Guidance Secretaries, Mrs. Merritt or Miss Idnum, at (302) 934-3166. Please contact your student's teacher via email by using the following format: [firstname.lastname@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:firstname.lastname@irsd.k12.de.us)

### Indian River School District Graduation Requirements=24.5

English: 4 credits    Mathematics: 4 credits

Science: 3 credits    Social Studies: 3 credits

Physical Education: 1 credit    Health: ½ credit

Career Pathway Courses: 3 credits    Elective Courses: 4 credits

Foreign Language: 2 credits

Students in Grades 9 through Grade 12, must have earned the following total credits in order to be promoted to the next senior high school grade:

Grade 9 to 10    6 Credits    1 English 1 Math

Grade 10 to 11    12 Credits    2 English 2 Math

Grade 11 to 12    18 Credits    3 English 3 Math

Grade 12 to Graduation    24.5 Credits    4 English 4 Math



How to contact your counselor,  
(302) 934-3166

Mrs. Bird (Ext. 211019)  
[bridget.bird@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:bridget.bird@irsd.k12.de.us)

Mrs. James (Ext. 211148)  
[tonya.james@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:tonya.james@irsd.k12.de.us)

Mrs. Keeler (Ext. 211028)  
[christina.keeler@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:christina.keeler@irsd.k12.de.us)

Mrs. Reid (Ext. 211108)  
[nika.reid@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:nika.reid@irsd.k12.de.us)

Ms. Targonski (Ext. 211107)  
[miriam.targonski@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:miriam.targonski@irsd.k12.de.us)

Mr. Thomas (Ext. 211111)  
[brett.thomas@irsd.k12.de.us](mailto:brett.thomas@irsd.k12.de.us)