

Scarborough High School

September 8, 2023

Dear Scarborough Students and Families

School is officially back! While it feels like just yesterday it was still summer vacation, it's been a busy start at Scarborough High School.

We got to meet all our freshmen and new students on August 30 -- it was wonderful to see all the new faces at SHS. The excitement was palpable, though I may have noticed a few nerves as well. It was also great to see all of our returning students on August 31. It's always a surprise to see how much they grow and change in just a few short months.

We were also able to welcome our seniors in style on their "last first day" of school. Many of them woke up early enough to caught a beautiful sunrise over breaking waves at the beach before making their way over to SHS for the Senior Walk and Senior Breakfast. A special thanks goes out to those parents who donated food items for the Senior Breakfast and to those who volunteered to work that event.

I'd be remiss not to acknowledge that it was a grueling first week in terms of weather. While we did what we could to help manage the heat by ensuring rooms were equipped with fans and moving classes into cooler or air conditioned spaces, a major kudos goes to students and staff for persevering through the heat. It looks as though next week will be much-improved -- let's hope those forecasts hold true.





Chromebook Distribution

I'm please to report while we're just one week into the school year, we've issued over 700 devices to students. With that said, we are hoping to see that number increase in the coming days and weeks.

As a reminder, students will need a school-issued device for all district and state testing this year -- which is fast approaching on Wednesday, October 11 -- so we do strongly urge every student to pick up a Chromebook.

If your child still needs a device, please take some time to complete the proper paperwork through the PowerSchool Parent Portal. Alternatively, we also have paper forms in The Main Office (Admin I) that students can pick up and bring home for your review and signature. Families may purchase insurance for \$15 to cover accidental damage, but this is not required for your student to receive a device.

Red or White day? Click here for the Block Schedule!

September 13: Early Release Day

Note that Wednesday, September 13 (White 1 Day) will be our first Early Release Day of the 2023-24 school year. SHS students will be released at 12:55pm.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

- **Block 1:** 8:00-9:00am
- **Block 2:** 9:05-10:05am
- **Block 3:** 10:10-11:10am
- **Block 4:** 11:15-12:55pm

Lunch will be served during Block 4 at the following times:

- **A Lunch:** 11:15-11:40
- **B Lunch:** 11:15-12:20
- **C Lunch:** 12:30-12:55

Students should check in with their Block 4 teacher on Monday, September 11, for their assigned lunch.

Student Services and Senior Placement

The Add/Drop Window for Semester 1 ends on 9/15. Any course withdrawals after that date will be reflected on student transcripts with either a WP or WF

Seniors: Are you exploring postsecondary options? See [this flyer from the Senior Placement Office](#).

Included are key dates and events for the college admissions process and financial aid and scholarship options, as well as other opportunities, such as [Service Academy Night](#). Also included are a list of upcoming college visits to SHS. Take a look and follow up with Mr. Harris if you have any questions.

Open House: Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Our Open House for the 2023-24 school year will take place on Wednesday, September 20 from 6:00-8:10pm. The evening will begin in the SHS Auditorium.

You will need a copy of your child's schedule for the event. A copy of that schedule will be emailed to parents/guardians on Monday, September 18. If you don't receive that email, you can find your child's through any of the following actions:

- Have your child log into PowerSchool and access their schedule,
- Contact Vickie Sutyak (vsutyak@scarboroughschools.org) in Student Services,
- Drop by the Student Services Department when you arrive at Open House to receive a printed copy.

Open House is a great opportunity to become more familiar with opportunities and supports that are available to your child at SHS, and build relationships with your child's teachers. Our teachers greatly value connecting with parents at Open House and I know I speak for all SHS staff when I say that I hope to see you there!

Looking to connect with other students? Searching for a Student Leadership Opportunity?

Consider joining Sources of Strength!

Sources of Strength's mission is to provide the highest quality evidence-based prevention for suicide, violence, bullying and substance abuse by training, supporting, and empowering both peer leaders and caring adults to impact their world through the power of connection, hope, help, and strength. We are a group of diverse students and adults from many different corners and cultures of our school and community. We believe that life has ups and downs, that all of us will go through good times and tough times. Our mission is to ensure that during the rough times no one gets so overwhelmed or hopeless that they want to give up. For information on joining Sources of Strength, please see the Scarborough Red Storm High School Clubs Website.

In what is sure to be the first of many campaigns this year, students in Sources of Strength were responsible for the decorative and welcoming sidewalk messages and artwalk (pictured above) that currently adorns our SHS Main Entrance.

For information on all of our Student Club opportunities, [click here](#).

Yearbook Sales

Are you a senior wondering about how to submit a Senior Photo, a Senior Writeup, or Baby Photo?

Are you interested in purchasing ad space the SHS 2023-24 Yearbook?

Or do you just want to know how to order a order?

[Click here to for information](#) about all things Yearbook-related. Please pay close attention to any and all deadlines. The Yearbook Staff certainly appreciate it!

October 11: District and State Testing at SHS (Grades 9-11) and the Senior Financial Literacy Fair

On Wednesday, October 11, students in grades 9, 10, and 11, will participate in district and state tests:

- **Ninth Graders:** iReady Assessment for Reading and Math
- **Tenth Graders:** Maine Educational Assessment (NWEA) for Reading and Math
- **Eleventh Graders:** PSAT Testing

Relatedly, our Seniors will be participating in a Senior Financial Literacy Fair, which is put in in partnership with Town and Country Credit Union.

Logistics for the day are still being planned and more information will be released closer to October 11.

As indicated above, students will need school-issued devices for this day.

Additional October Events

While it seems far away at this point, I want to point out a few October events that are on the horizon.

Spirit Week/Homecoming Dance

This year's Spirit Week will run from October 10-13, and the Homecoming Dance will be on Saturday, October 14 from 7-10pm in the SHS Cafeteria. Students should stay tuned to announcements and emails for more information regarding dress-up days and dance ticket sales.

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences

Fall Conferences at SHS will run on Thursday, October 5, from 2:45-7:15pm (last conference starts at 7pm) and Thursday, October 19, from 2:45-5:15 (last conference starts at 5pm).

Conferences can be scheduled starting on September 25. To schedule a conference with one your child's teachers, please go to [Conference Manager](#). From there parents/guardians can login or register if you have not already done so.

- **Freshmen Parents/Guardians:** If you used Conference Manager at SMS, you will need to open your account and change your student from Middle School to High School in order to make appointments with HS teachers.

AI and ChatGPT

Before signing off, I also wanted to make a brief statement to families and students regarding AI and ChatGPT.

Though the year has just begun, teachers have already reported seeing a few assignments that they've suspected were generated by using AI technology, likely ChatGPT. While this technology is tremendously powerful, and is sure to have a lasting impact on the world in ways we can't yet predict, I want to acknowledge here and now that submitting assignments partially or wholly generated using AI are regarded as acts of Academic Dishonesty under our [SHS Student Handbook](#). Though we always try to educate and support students in these instances, there are consequences, some potentially far-reaching, for such violations.

As is the case in schools and colleges across the country currently, and as has frequently been the case when new educational technology rapidly emerges, we are having many healthy and constructive internal discussions as a staff about how to use this tool to further teaching and learning and improve educational outcomes for all students. However, as we take some time to work through how to best adapt to this new technology, teachers and staff are putting a variety of measures in place to ensure the academic integrity of student work.

Thanks everyone for your contributions in making this school opening a successful one and we wish you some more seasonable weather in the coming weeks!

Building Leadership Team

Ms. Blaisdell, *Assistant Principal (Gr 9 + 11)*

Mr. Brown, *Assistant Principal (Gr 10 + 12)*
Mr. LeGage, *Director of Athletics and Activities*
Mr. Theriault, *Principal*

