



The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



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8th Graders Introduced to 'SHS Experience'



**By Joseph Melillo
Co-Editor, Tusker Tribune**

On Friday, January 24th, the Somers Middle School 8th graders took a field trip to the Somers High

School for a bit of a sneak peek of what life would be like at the high school. It was a very interesting trip. There was a spectacular musical performance prepared for the middle schoolers first thing after they



arrived at the school, with the chorus singing Bohemian Rhapsody and the band playing The Avengers theme song. After the musical performance the 8th graders went with their peer leaders to the lunchroom, where they had a community lunch. A lot of the 8th graders said that they thought the food was better at the



high school. There were certainly more options at the high school than the middle school.

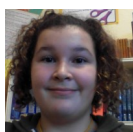
After community lunch the peer leaders took the 8th graders on a bit of a trip around the school. We went to see all of the elective courses that the high school had to offer for the new incoming freshmen students, from classes from engineering all the way to Project Lead the Way Bio-medical Science.

Many students were happy with the visit

and some even reunited with some older friends they have in high school. Overall I would say that the high school visit was very beneficial for the incoming 8th grade students, because going from 8th to 9th grade is a big step and grades start counting for college.



A Suggestion for Better Locker Access



**By Anna Hagen
Tusker Tribune Staff**
Lockers. Everyone has them; we all know how they work.

And I believe that they should change. They're always super crowded, and it's so hard to get in.

Sometimes when you just go one off on the combination, you can't get in! Also, when you're trying



to pack your bag, they're people below you so you have to put your bag in the middle of the hallway. It's so squished, you have no room to move.

I've been thinking about 7th grade, when we'll get our locker on the first day of school, and how hectic it will be trying to get a different locker!

We could solve this problem by having the lockers spaced apart more, have all the lockers full-sized, or have a fingerprint passcode.

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The Tusker Tribune

SOMERS MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

The Tusker Tribune is the online Somers Middle School Student Newspaper. It is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from:

**Somers Middle School, 250 Route 202,
Somers, NY, USA.**

Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Co-editor Noah Volkman at volkman.noah@somersschools.org or Advisor Dean Pappas at

Who Are the 'Real' Heroes?



**By Amanda Dustin
Tusker Tribune Staff**

When you think of heroes, you might think of Batman, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, Iron man, etc.

But those aren't real; they are fictional

characters that are made to entertain. But little do you know, there are real life heroes in this world. In fact, we hear about them a lot. We completely miss the fact that they save lives every day, and we barely ever praise them for it. Right now, I am going to show you that there are real life heroes, and what they look like.

There are two types of real-life heroes on earth, one of which are police officers. We all can see that they don't have the ability to fly, nor have super speed. But that's not what really makes a superhero; it's the ability to help people.



Think about this: a superhero's main goal is to save people and try to help. That's exactly what police officers do, only that they're not special enough because they don't fly, or can turn invisible, or have mind reading abilities. But who cares if they can't do that? Who cares if they don't

have crazy inhuman powers? They don't have to use telepathic mind waves or super speed to save people, because they know the right materials and steps to try and save a person. They may not be lucky enough every time to save someone, but that's not their fault. They try so hard every day that the one time they mess up, or fail to do something, they get discouraged. Not everyone can be saved, and there is nothing anyone can do about it -- not even superman can save everyone.

Our other heroes are firefighters. You might think, all they do is put out the fires, right? They don't do much at all. But you're wrong, and you have no idea. Firefighters are so underestimated, it's kind of sad.

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Video Games: Beneficial or Not?



**By Luke Armstrong
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever wondered if videogames really are good for you? Well long story short,

yes, they are.

Although in some areas it "fries" your brain, in most areas, it helps you. This is because videogames focus your attention (more than in school), they improve visual skills, and make you more aware of what's going on around you. Now, let's get into more depth of videogames.

Most kids can't focus their attention in school. Sitting at a desk for six hours and listening to a person speak can get a little dry. Then why can kids play videogames for seven to eight hours? This is because videogames focus children's attention differently than school.

But that's not all. Kids are much more interested in videogames than anything else. This means they will focus on it more than something they're not interested in. Also, videogames take lots of concentration, though daydreaming in

school doesn't. The more concentration, the more focus something gets. In the end, videogames focus kid's attention.



But I'm not done. Not only do these games focus attention, they also improve visual skills. Now what exactly are visual skills you may ask? Well, visual skills are skills that the eye has. They help see -- obviously, and they allow you to be aware of your surrounding -- which I'll talk more about later. But most importantly, they improve hand-eye

coordination.

Hand-eye coordination is very important, in that it can make you better at sports, or even life in general. Most activities take hand-eye coordination, so it is very important to have. So good visual skills are important to have.

In conclusion, videogames, yes, they are good for you. They focus attention, improve visual skills, and make you better at monitoring what's happening. So, you could say they "fry" your brain, but that wouldn't really be telling the full truth. I'm done, but I still have one more thing to say...

Play videogames!

Somers FD Visits 6th Grade Health Classes



The visits are a highlight of Mr. Arnett's 6th grade Health curriculum. The FD visits twice a quarter. One visit focuses on EMS (Emergency Medical Service) and the second visit (pictured here) focuses on the Fire Service.



Heroes

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People think that policemen get the more dangerous jobs, and firemen are just the "backup". Well, fun fact, firemen get hurt too. Many people die on duty as a fireman, as well as getting injured. Policemen are amazing, and help so many people, but get unnecessary fame over firefighters.

Firefighters' jobs aren't just to clear up the fire, and that alone is not as easy as it seems. Constantly having to check your air tank while you're on the ground with pitch black smoke clogging up your vision, is not simple. Not to mention they must search every room in the house and/or apartment in flames to check if anyone is still inside. They risk their lives to protect other people, and wouldn't you say that's heroic?

Besides the actual fires, firemen run around like crazy. They must go to drunk people

accidents, car crashes, and other insane incident. They rush people to the hospital, deal with harassment issues, and experience more horrible scenarios. And people aren't always so compliant with them. When they are trying to rush to an accident, sometimes drivers don't move to the side of the road so that they could get through. Have you ever thought, the seconds they take to get to the scene, the more time someone's life could be wasting away?

The real problem here is that these heroes should be more noticed. Every single police officer and firefighter does so many things that honestly, it's incredible. The amount of lives restored from a fireman's help. The help of a policemen to get people up to better health after a life-threatening accident. They have so many stories to tell of times when they've helped someone, or a time when they almost died.

You see them every day in plain sight, but no one stops to think about how much they do. It's like they have a secret identity, and no one really understands how heroic they really are.