



JAGUAR NATION

APRIL 2017 • VOLUME 6, No. 6

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Preparations are underway for our 3rd Proud To Be An American Day event which is being held on our lower soccer field on Thursday, May 25 at 8:30am. I would like to offer an extended invitation to our school community and families as this Memorial Day celebration offers a moving tribute to honor fallen, veteran and active service men and women whose service to our country truly highlights our American way of life.

School Spirit Alert

- SCVTHS is proud to announce that seniors Brianna LaFace and TJ Driscoll have been named our 2017 Scholar Athletes. Brianna and TJ will be honored at a county-wide banquet to be held on May 10.
- April 22: Rotary Club Beach Sweep Service Project
- May 8: 2nd Annual SkillsUSA Golf Classic at Raritan Valley Country Club

On The Field

Baseball and Softball seasons have begun so remember to check out our sports schedule on our website and come on out in a show of support and cheer our teams on. Go Jags!

This year's seniors on the fields:

Baseball – Robert Bender, Meyer Gershater, Shubham Gohil, Dylan LaRue, Harry Moreno Junco, Michael Pena, John Sala

Softball: Kristen Fernandez, Emily Heathcote, Brianna LaFace, Tara Lardiere, Daria Marini

Sincerely,
Diane M. Ziegler



DYNAMIC DUO LEAD SCVTHS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM TO A SUCCESSFUL SEASON

The Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Jaguar Boys' Basketball Team ended their season with a 15-11 record and a state playoff berth. However, this was not the only highlight of the season as the Jaguars had two standout players who stepped up to not only lead their team, but lead statistical categories in the state.

Elijah Bowers, a junior from Somerset, finished 8th among all New Jersey high school basketball players in three-point shots made with 83, 14th in the state for three-point shots made per game with 3.2, and 23rd in assists with 133. Additionally, with over 18,000 votes, Elijah won NJ.com's fan poll entitled, "Who is the best boys basketball 3-point shooter in the state?"

Elijah also became the fifth player in SCVTHS history to record 1,000 career points. He will aim to become the school's all-time point scorer next year when he is a senior.

Yakim Jean-Philippe, a junior from Somerset, finished 2nd among all New Jersey high school basketball players in blocks with 135, 25th in total rebounds with 238, and 20th in total rebounds per game with 9.9.

"Elijah Bowers has been a highly effective scorer the last two seasons, but this year he brought his game to a new level," said Coach Mike McClain. "He developed into a good rebounder and solid defender. However his biggest improvement this season was his willingness and desire to involve his teammates on the offensive end as he finished in the top 25 in the state in assists."

SCVTHS Boys Basketball Coach Mike McClain stated, "Yakim Jean-Philippe made huge strides this



(left to right): Yakim Jean-Philippe and Elijah Bowers

season. It was really his first full season playing organized basketball. Yakim played less than half a season as a sophomore, and during that time showed the potential to be a good player. His willingness to learn and put in hard work helped him become a big time impact player."*

For more information on this story contact James Strickhart at (908) 526-8900, ext. 7169 or jstrickhart@scvts.net.



SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

14 Vogt Drive • P.O. Box 6350 • Bridgewater, NJ 08807 • (908) 526-8900

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APRIL 2017

SCVTHS HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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Duane Wallace • Editor & Designer
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(left to right): SCVTHS Health Occupations students Jenna Molfetta of Bound Brook, Rebeka Quagliato of South Bound Brook, Megan Flores of Bound Brook, and Tiffany Powser of Bridgewater during the SCVTHS Blood Drive.

Students from the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Club and the Health Occupations Program at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School, in coordination with Atlantic Health System serving Overlook Hospital, hosted their Ninth Annual Blood Drive on Thursday, March 2, 2017. Over one hundred SCVTHS students and staff members were credited with contributing 70 units at the event.

The Health Occupations and HOSA students were involved in the scheduling and coordination of the event, as well as caring for the blood donors during and after their donations. Marla Castillo, a senior in the Health Occupations Program from Bound Brook, described the Blood Drive and said, "Although it was difficult to organize, it was rewarding because it was for a good cause." Christine Starozytnyk, a junior in the Health Occupations Program from South Bound Brook, went on to add, "I was glad to see students overcoming their fears in order to donate. Being able to assist others while they donated helped us work on our leadership skills and practice our bedside manner." ❀

For more information on this story contact Kim Vasaturo at (908) 526-8900, x7154 or kvasaturo@scvts.net.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Jack Scala

Jack Scala

Jack Scala, a freshman in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for March 2017. Jack is the son of Generoso and Monica Scala of Tewksbury Township.

SCVTHS Physical Education Instructor Matthew Poznanski nominated Jack for the award for the fact that he is, "academically focused. He is always prepared for class and never late. (Jack) Scala is passionate about learning and improving his education."

At SCVTHS, Jack is the President and founder of the Model United Nations Club, a member of the Bio League, the student council, a student ambassador, a member of the UNICEF Club and he also holds a leadership position in the Doctors Without Borders Club. Through the UNICEF Club and on his own, Jack regularly spends his time volunteering.

Jack is a past recipient of the Tewksbury Old Turnpike School Audrey Lain Snyder Award for Stewardship and a member of the SCVTHS Honor Roll. In addition, Jack was selected by his sending district to attend a peer leadership conference last fall. He is also currently collaborating with others to plan SCVTHS' first Model United Nations Conference.

In his free time, Jack takes Italian classes, tutors younger students and enjoys spending time with his family. He enjoys playing tennis, running track and field, as well as running cross country.

When asked about his future plans, Jack said, "In the future, I want to pursue a career in the medical field. Personally, cardiology and cardiothoracic surgery interest me, but I do not want to limit myself to those specialties at such an early time." ❀