



JAGUAR NATION

JUNE 2017 • VOLUME 6, No. 8

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCVTHS RANKED AMONG BEST SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

A thank you to all who contributed to making our second SkillsUSA Golf Classic a success!

Join us on May 25 at 8:30am in honor of Proud To Be An American Day. Students, staff, families, veterans and local dignitaries will honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation as we teach our students about patriotism.

Students and staff have been working hard this Spring on the required State testing for both academics and career & technical programs and are looking forward to some fun-filled, school spirited events.

School Spirit Alerts & Upcoming Events:

- May 25 - Proud To Be An American Day
- June 1 - Distracted Driving Student Assembly
- June 2 - Junior/Senior Prom
- June 6 - NTHS Induction Ceremony
- June 7 - Spring Sports Banquet
- June 16 - Linkages Talent Show

We also want to wish our students who are competing at the National SkillsUSA conference in Louisville, Kentucky, the best of luck! Students and advisors are leaving on June 19 and will be returning home on June 24. Also we wish the best of luck to Academy junior Brianna Broderick who is running for a position on the SkillsUSA national officers' team to represent the State of NJ for the 2017-2018 school year.

On The Field

Baseball & Softball Season: Check out our sports schedule on our website and come out in a show of support and cheer our teams on. Go Jags!

Sincerely,

Diane M. Ziegler



U.S. News & World Report and the North Carolina based RTI International has just ranked Somerset Vocational & Technical High School among the best high schools in the United States. In total, the U.S. News & World Report analyzed over 20,000 public high schools in the nation, and ranked more than 6,000 of the highest-scoring schools as gold, silver or bronze. Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School was selected along with 3,432 other high schools as bronze medal winners.

According to U.S. News, the selection was based on the key principles that a great high school must serve all of its students well, not just those who are college-bound, and that it must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes to show the school is successfully educating its student body across a range of performance indicators. A four-step process was used to determine the best high schools.

Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools Superintendent Dr. Chrys Harttraft spoke of the ranking by saying, "We are proud of our bronze level designation, as it is a testament to our hard working students and teachers. The bronze award recognizes achievements of a diverse group of students and the excellent preparation of all of their sending districts in the county. Unfortunately, until the criteria for silver and gold status recognizes achievement of college credits as a college readiness indicator, we will not be able to compete for those designations. Currently, a quarter of our students receive between 3 and 64 college credits. Our instruction does not include AP courses and therefore we are not considered for the silver or gold awards."

Somerset County Vocational and Technical High School Principal Diane Ziegler added, "Our career and technical education provides students with many unique and rewarding learning opportunities. These



(left to right): Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools Superintendent Dr. Chrys Harttraft and Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Principal Diane M. Ziegler

experiences shape and guide who they are now and who they will become in the future. It is my privilege that I get to see them grow along the way. This award highlights the strengths associated with our exceptional educational experience."✿

For more information, contact James Strickhart at jstrickhart@scvts.net or (908) 526-8900, x7169.

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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A US News & World Report Top Ranked High School!



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CLASS OF 2017 COMMENCEMENT

School Auditorium
June 21, 2017 • 7 pm

SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference (NLSC)
Louisville, KY
June 19 - 23, 2017



JAGUAR NATION

JUNE 2017

SCVTHS HONORS SCHOLAR ATHLETES

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Maria Scarpantonio

This year's Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School Scholar Athletes are Brianna LaFace of Warren and TJ Driscoll of Bridgewater. Brianna and TJ were recognized for their achievements at the annual Somerset County Scholar Athlete Dinner on May 10th.

Brianna LaFace

Brianna LaFace, daughter of Frank and Annette LaFace, was a two-sport athlete at SCVTHS. During her tenure, Brianna was a four year starter on the varsity softball team and a starter on the varsity basketball team during her senior year. Additionally, Brianna served as the captain for both the varsity basketball and softball teams. As the captain, she dedicated herself as a team player and took pride in making sure her teammates were always giving their best. Aside from her athletic capabilities, Brianna is an honor roll student, member of the National Honor Society, as well as a member of the National Technical Honor Society. Brianna also serves as the Public Relations Coordinator for the Rotary Club. Although still undecided on a major, Brianna plans to attend RVCC next fall and play on their softball team.

TJ Driscoll

Terrence "TJ" Driscoll, son of Terry and Cari Driscoll, was a two-sport athlete at SCVTHS. TJ was a captain and goalie for the varsity soccer team and a captain and the starting forward for the varsity basketball team. During his tenure at SCVTHS, TJ was awarded the Rookie of the Year award for both the basketball and soccer teams, received the Coaches Recognition Award for the basketball team his junior year and for the soccer team during his senior year. During his fourth and final year on the varsity basketball team, TJ was awarded the Best Defensive Player for leading his team in steals. Since his freshman year, he has been enrolled in honors and AP courses at BRHS and has maintained a 3.7 GPA. TJ plans to study game design at RIT next Fall. ✨

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(left to right): Brianna LaFace and TJ Driscoll with their awards after the SCVTHS Scholar Athlete reception

Maria Scarpantonio

Maria Scarpantonio, a freshman in the Agricultural Science Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for May 2017. Maria is the daughter of Anthony and Linda Scarpantonio of Manville.

Agricultural Science Instructor Mr. Fargo nominated Maria for the Student of the Month Award because she "shows initiative and motivation. Maria actively contributes to all class discussions with thought and applying gained knowledge. She is the first in her class to earn an FFA Greenhand Degree this year. In her degree application, she shared words of a caring leader who is ready and motivated to serve, inspire, and lift up others." Mr. Fargo went on to add, "Maria may have a small voice, but she has a powerful message that gains momentum with the motivation and drive she puts behind it."

SCVTHS Science Instructor Shannon Melick also nominated Maria for Student of the Month saying, "Maria is an outstanding student and is a role model in and out of the classroom. She exemplifies enthusiasm, dedication and responsibility in all respects. Her curiosity for science extends outside of her Agricultural Shop and into the biology classroom."

Outside of SCVTHS, Maria volunteers at the Manville library, horseback rides and participates in the FFA. When she has free time, Maria enjoys reading, playing the video game Minecraft, tending to plants and hugging her dog.

After graduating from SCVTHS, Maria plans on furthering her education and pursuing a major in genetics and genomics. ✨