



JAGUAR NATION

APRIL 2022 • VOLUME 17, No. 6

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

STUDENTS WIN REFURBISHED GUITARS AS PART OF MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

As you know, our flexibility was tested during March with inclement weather and a water main break that led to the closure of our B-Building. Our students and staff were safely accommodated into the other buildings. We are fortunate to have a spacious campus that allowed us to continue instruction without any long term closure. A special shout out to our Building and Grounds and Technology Departments, Mr. Dalfonzo, Mr. Fargo and Mr. Menke who assisted in redirecting the water to avoid further damage.

During the month of April our themes will be Keep America Beautiful, National Poetry and Math Education Month. The 3rd Marking Period ends on Friday, April 8th. Grades will be posted to Genesis on April 29th. We will celebrate the end of the marking period during the lunch periods with a Student vs. Staff Game.

We wish Ms. Maldonado, Mr. McGarry, Mr. Strickhart, Mr. O'Neill and the Softball and Baseball Teams the best of luck during the Spring season. As a reminder, the monthly COVID form will be available on Sunday evening April 3rd. We will have a noon dismissal on Friday, April 8th. We are closed from April 11th -18th for Spring Recess. We will reopen on Tuesday, April 19th.

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



(l-r) SCVTHS Creative Arts Coordinator Janet Cantore-Watson, SCVTHS students and guitar winners Emily Guillen-Gonzalez of Somerville, Grace Chen of Hillsborough, Liam Hanily of Somerset, Mr. Doug Watson of Arizona Son Guitars, and SCVTHS Principal Hector Montes

As part of Music In Our Schools Month (MIO SM) and to celebrate the creation of the Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) Music Club, SCVTHS students were given the opportunity to win a refurbished acoustic guitar and gig bag. Students took part in the contest by answering the question, "Why would you like to own a guitar?"

At the end of the contest, three winners were selected and each received a refurbished acoustic guitar with a gig bag. SCVTHS Creative Arts Coordinator Ms. Janet Cantore-Watson and her husband Mr. Doug Watson, owners of Arizona Son Guitars, donated the refurbished acoustic guitars for the contest.

Additionally, the Raritan Music Store donated gig bags to accompany the guitars.

The SCVTHS Music Club held its first meeting on February 25th. The Club was created for students to explore music, practice their instruments and take lessons.*

For more information on this story contact James Strickhart at jstrickhart@scvts.net.





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SCVTHS CELEBRATES WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

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First Place Winner - Newsletter Category



(left to right): SCVTHS Carpentry Instructor James Foley, SCVTHS Electrical Construction Instructor Mike McClain, Steve Grimler and Geraldine Smith of All Inclusive Construction, and SCVTHS Cooperative Education Coordinator Gerald Mazzetta

On March 10th, in celebration of Women in Construction Week, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) welcomed Geraldine Smith of All Inclusive Construction to speak with students in the construction trade programs. Geraldine, a contractor from Branchburg, discussed some of her most recent projects, highlighted the importance of contracts, insurance and detailed residential construction in real world settings.

During the presentation, SCVTHS students and staff were shown examples of recently completed work, explanations of how to perform certain tasks, and given general information regarding the construction field. Additionally, Geraldine explained the importance of certain projects such as the installation of accessibility ramps and retrofitting bathrooms for handicap accessibility. Finally, Geraldine discussed



SCVTHS construction trades students watch a presentation by Geraldine Smith of All Inclusive Construction during Women in Construction Week.

entrepreneurship with the students, specifically dealing with what it takes to start and grow a business.*

For more information on this story, contact James Strickhart at jstrickhart@scvts.net.

SAIGE SHOUDT



Saige Shoudt

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Saige Shoudt, a freshman in the Gifted and Talented Honors Dance Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's (SCVTHS) Student of the Month for March 2022. Saige is the daughter of Dawn Em of Frenchtown.

SCVTHS English Instructor Mr. Miller nominated Saige for the Student of the Month award stating, "Saige is a hard worker, a good student, and a valuable teammate for her peers. Saige is quite conscientious, not only about her grades, but about the quality of her work. Her classmates can count on Saige to be helpful and insightful—always with a good attitude."

Dance Department Coordinator Sheila Sullivan added, "Saige is an enthusiastic student who always brings 120% to her dance classes. She is a pleasure to teach and we look forward to her future growth in our Dance Program both technically and artistically."

Outside of SCVTHS, Saige is very involved with the Epic Dance Company in Flemington. Each day after school, Saige attends the Epic Dance Company to assist with the younger dancers and work on her skills. In her free time, Saige enjoys spending time with her family and friends, going down to the shore and exercising.

After graduating from SCVTHS, Saige plans on attending college at either the University of Southern California or the University of Arizona and eventually hopes to work in the Dance industry. Additionally, Saige is considering taking additional classes to become a therapist. Saige stated that she is interested in helping young adults deal with loss, anxiety, and depression.*