



JAGUAR NATION

JANUARY 2023 • VOLUME 12, No. 4

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

VETERANS & GOLD STAR FAMILIES VISIT SCVTHS FOR SEVENTH 'AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE' EVENT

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

I would like to congratulate the following staff members on the 2022-2023 Educator Awards:

Ms. Amy Patryn – Support Staff Member of the Year

Ms. Susan Kiser – Educational Services Professional of the Year

Mr. Guillermo Reina – Educator of the Year

On Tuesday, December 20th, the 2nd Marking Period Interim Grades will be available for viewing in Genesis. Please ensure that your child is on track for success. Tutoring is available for students struggling in academic areas. Please consult with your child's Guidance Counselor to arrange the services.

SCVTHS will have a 12pm dismissal on Friday, December 23rd and will be closed starting on December 24th-31st for the Holiday Recess. The school will reopen on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday. Enjoy the much needed break.

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



(l-r): SCVTS Superintendent Robert Presuto, SCVTHS Principal Hector Montes, SCVTHS Director of Athletics/ Student Discipline Jaime Morales, US Army Special Forces (Green Beret) Sergeant First Class Jake Fernandez, Social Studies Instructor & Army Veteran Ed M. Graf, and SCVTHS Supervisor of Academics Rande Holz

On November 29th and 30th, students and staff at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School welcomed a group of 15 US military veterans and five Gold Star Families to their seventh *An Attitude of Gratitude* event. This year, SCVTHS celebrated US Army Veteran and Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Colonel Jack Jacobs and US Army Special Forces (Green Beret) Sergeant First Class Jake Fernandez as the event's guests of honor. Veterans in attendance were from various VFW and American Legion Posts throughout Somerset County.

"The *An Attitude of Gratitude* event was a special learning opportunity for students to engage with veterans and Gold Star Family members who related their experiences about World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, 9/11, and the War on Terror," stated Social Studies Instructor & Army Veteran Ed M. Graf. "The students learned about armed conflicts, but also about the inspiration for life, such as never giving up, striving for goals, not listening to negative influences, and persevering through adversity with drive and determination."

Mr. Graf went on to add, "All of the students felt a connection with the guests and felt ownership of the event. Several Gold Star Family members remarked that it was great to see the baton of freedom passing from one generation to the next."

In addition to the event, students from the SCVTHS Culinary Arts Program created and served a meal for the attendees in the school's Trade Wins restaurant. Culinary Arts Instructor Mark Mastrobattista stated, "It was a pleasure for our students to serve food to those who serve and have served our country. Not only do our students have the opportunity to practice and improve their culinary and dining room skills, but they also have a chance to interact and gain knowledge from people who truly know the meaning of the word 'serve.' It is always great to see that happen."

Mr. Graf and his students are now hard at work preparing for their annual *Proud to be an American Day*, which is to be held in May.✳

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



SCVTHS
OPEN
HOUSE

FEBRUARY 4, 2023
9 am TO Noon

REGISTER at
www.scvths.org/openhouse



JAGUAR NATION

JANUARY 2023

SCVTHS STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN COUNTY-WIDE LEAF CLEAN-UP EVENT

JAGUAR NATION

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New Jersey School

NJSPRA

Public Relations Association

First Place Winner - Newsletter Category



(l-r): SCVTHS students Jayden Yap of Bridgewater, Bobby Pasquale of Ringoes, Sabrina Abella of Bridgewater, Sydney Sibilia of Raritan, Jack Pauls of Hillsborough, Madison Seibert of South Bound Brook, Kalina Trent of Skillman, Kiara Munoz of Manville, and Sophia Davis of Branchburg

On Saturday, November 19th, students and staff from various student organizations at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School spent the day cleaning up leaves for elderly and disabled homeowners throughout Somerset County, who are unable to do their yard work.

The Fall Leaf Clean-Up, set up by the Somerset County Office of Volunteer Services, was attended by a total of 29 students from the National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, and the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). In order to maximize their efforts, the students were broken down into four groups and sent to different locations within the County. The groups assisted elderly and disabled homeowners in Hillsborough, Bound Brook, Somerville, and Bridgewater.

SCVTHS Social Studies Teacher and National Honor Society Advisor Meghan O'Reilly Welch provided a positive assessment of the event.

"The collaboration and support of our student and staff volunteers made the Fall Leaf Clean-up a success. Special thanks go out to advisors Ms. Santiago (NTHS) and Ms. Vasaturo (HOSA). In addition we are grateful to SCVTHS instructors Ms. Kreiss-Papalski, Ms. Gotti and Sr. Reina for helping to make this event possible.

"I am proud our school could help provide services to our elderly county residents. We are looking forward to making this an annual school event."

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

KYE TARAN



Kye Taran

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Kye Taran, a junior in the Health Occupations Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for December 2022. Kye is the child of Ms. Holly Lange of Bedminster.

SCVTHS Math Instructor Mr. Bryant Jefopoulos nominated Kye for the Student of the Month award stating, "Kye is always a positive force in both my Algebra II class and Math Madness. Kye is always willing to help, is respectful and hardworking."

At SCVTHS, Kye is a member of the TOPS (Technical Occupational Preparation for Success) Council, HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Club, Math Madness League, Safety Committee, Peer Mentors, and Student Ambassadors. Additionally, Kye is the recipient of multiple school awards including the TOPS Program Ambassador Award (2022), Outstanding in English (2022), Excellence in History (2022), Achievement in Geometry (2022), Achievement in Chemistry (2022), Achievement in Biology (2021), and Distinguished Achievement (2019).

Outside of school, Kye enjoys sketching, painting, crocheting, singing, and practicing ukulele.

When asked about plans after high school, Kye stated, "I plan on attending Raritan Valley Community College to get my basic college classes out of the way, following that with a biomedical degree, med school, and finishing with a career in forensics or genetics."