



JAGUAR NATION

MARCH 2023 • VOLUME 12, No. 6

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCVTHS HONOR SOCIETIES DONATE TO LOCAL FOOD BANKS

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

Welcome Back from the Mid-Winter Recess. It is my hope that everyone had a chance to rest and spend some time with loved ones.

The PSAT and NJGPA will be administered during the month of March – the PSAT to full time Sophomores on Thursday, March 2nd and the NJGPA to full time Juniors on Monday, March 13th–Thursday, March 16th.

Also during the month of March we will be celebrating Women's History, Music in our Schools and St. Patrick's Day. Ms. Vasaturo, Ms. Watson, Mr. Schade and Mr. Reina inspired our students to follow their dreams and share their instrumental and vocal talents. Thanks to Mr. Schade and Mr. Reina, SCVTHS now has a Music and Band Club. Several events are taking place to showcase our students' talents. In the future we hope to offer a Music Elective course.

The 3rd Marking Period Interim Reports will be available on March 14th. I would like to thank Ms. Maria Johnson, Director of Pupil Services and her team, for facilitating another successful Open House. Our registration numbers are promising for the 2023–2024 school year.

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



(standing l-r) NHS Secretary Sharan Krishnan of Hillsborough, NHS Treasurer Robert Pasquale of Ringoes, NHS Vice President Aarush Kumar of Hillsborough; (sitting l-r) NHS President Jiya Mody of Martinsville, NTHS President Bryanna Pasternak of High Bridge, NTHS Secretary Alexa Speeney of Watchung, NTHS Treasurer Cameron Knauf of Bridgewater, and NTHS Vice President Emily Herman of Stockton with collected food items

During the month of January, students in Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's National Honor Society (NHS) and National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) joined forces to help support local food banks.

Approximately 250 total items were collected and delivered to the Food Bank Network of Somerset County in Bound Brook. In addition to the donated items, a monetary donation of \$110 was also made to the Franklin Food Bank in Somerset.

National Honor Society Advisor Ms. O'Reilly Welch and National Technical Honor Society

Advisor Ms. Santiago both stated, "It was great to help two organizations in our community. With the current cost of food, more people than ever are relying on County resources to get by."*

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





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THE 2023 BLUE COLLAR TOUR VISITS SCVTHS

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SCVTHS students and staff gather with the 2023 Blue Collar Tour representatives and bus

On February 7th, students at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) were visited by the 2023 Blue Collar Tour from the Western Welding Academy of Gillette, Wyoming.

In an effort to combat an upcoming shortage in blue-collar workers, Tyler Sasse, owner and founder of the Western Welding Academy, and the Blue Collar Tour are currently visiting 30 schools in 30 different states over the course of 60 days. During this time, the Blue Collar Tour hopes to reach nearly 20,000 students to promote blue-collar careers.

"The demonstration was exciting and provided me with great insight into the school and potential career paths," said sophomore SCVTHS Welding student George Dalrymple. "Being able to weld for their instructors was a great opportunity."

SCVTHS Supervisor of Career and Technical Education Rob Carrig added, "The instructors from the Western Welding Academy were tremendously engaging and provided our students with an amazing experience. Our students were extremely excited to

participate and demonstrate their skills to these industry experts. The feedback, information, and guidance provided were invaluable and we were grateful to have them visit us!"*

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



(l-r): SCVTHS Superintendent of Schools Robert Presuto, owner and founder of the Western Welding Academy Tyler Sasse, SCVTHS Welding Instructor Richard Menke, and SCVTHS Supervisor of Career and Technical Education Rob Carrig, gather during the 2023 Blue Collar Tour

ELEANOR CUNNINGHAM



Eleanor Cunningham

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Eleanor Cunningham, a senior in the Culinary Arts Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's Student of the Month for February 2023. Eleanor is the daughter of Richard and Susan Cunningham of Skillman.

SCVTHS Photography Instructor Ms. Deb Gichan nominated Eleanor for the Student of the Month award stating, "Eleanor is an enthusiastic student who engages in all we do and helps others in class. She always has a positive attitude while working hard to do well."

At SCVTHS Eleanor is a member of the Culinary Arts Advisory Committee, National Honor Society, and National Technical Honor Society. Additionally, Eleanor was the 2021 New Jersey SkillsUSA Commercial Baking Gold Medal recipient. She then went on to compete nationally and placed fourth overall.

Outside of school, Eleanor works at the Blue Bottle Café in Hopewell where she is the Assistant Pastry Chef and Line Cook. In her free time, Eleanor enjoys taking care of and walking dogs.

When asked about her future plans, Eleanor stated that she plans to attend the Culinary Institute of America beginning in the Fall where she plans to work towards an Associate's Degree in baking and pastry arts.*