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Can You Link Up? SchoolLinks Debuts at Argo Community High School

While the Counseling Department has a history of helping students in a variety of ways that have remained stable over the years, it also knows that sometimes change is necessary to improve its delivery of services to students. To this end, SchoolLinks has arrived. What is SchoolLinks?

SchoolLinks is a comprehensive, modern college and career readiness (CCR) platform designed for K-12 school districts. It is used by schools across the United States to help students explore career paths, plan their high school courses, manage college applications, and track their progress toward post-graduation goals. The link to access the platform is in the Students drop down menu on argohs.net.

Core Purpose and Features

The platform is built to support students in finding a postsecondary path —whether that is a four-year degree, a two-year college, a trade school, an apprenticeship, the military, or entering the workforce directly.

Its main features for students include:

- **Career Exploration:** Students can take interest and strength assessments, explore career clusters, and view profiles with salary and education requirements.
- **Academic Planning:** It provides a step-

by-step course planner with real-time error checking to ensure students stay on track for graduation and college admission requirements.

- **College Application Management:** The platform integrates with the Common App, allowing students to track applications, request transcripts, and manage recommendation letters in one place.
- **Work-Based Learning:** Districts can use it to coordinate internships, job shadowing, and volunteer opportunities, as well as track experience hours and award digital badges.

What does this mean for our school? Well, the counselors have been undergoing training in SchoolLinks and recently visited senior English classes to get students onboard with the platform and begin to explain the ways that it can help seniors plan for life after graduation. Counselors prioritized seniors as they are the cohort closest to leaving Argo, but the younger students will go through onboarding with the counselors as the school year progresses. If any student in any grade has questions about the platform, please don't hesitate to contact your counselor. 

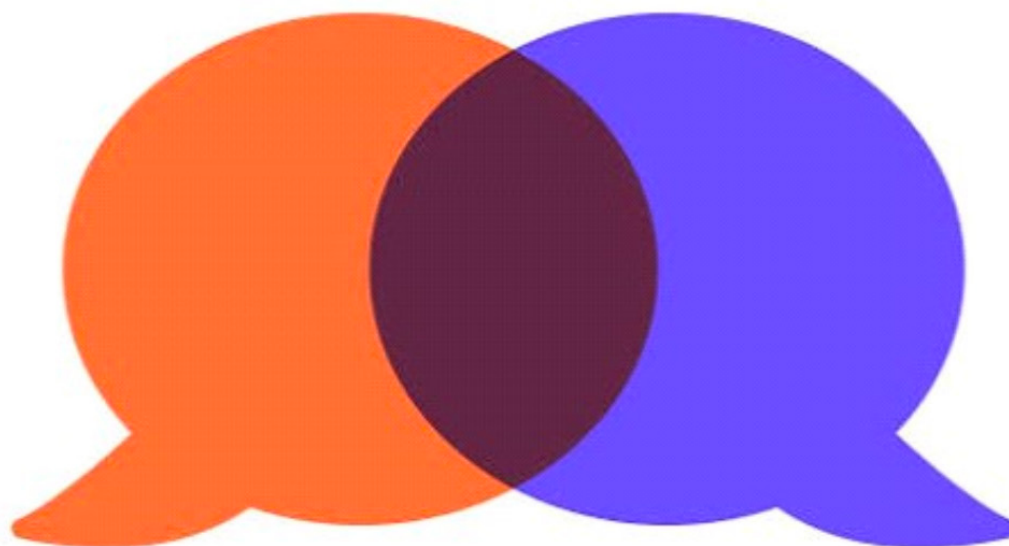
The SchoolLinks logo features the word "schoolinks" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized icon of two interlocking loops.

Break the Seal...of Biliteracy, that is

If you have been a student or employee at Argo for even a brief period, it is hard not to notice that ours is diverse school environment. One tell tale sign of this phenomenon is that it is not uncommon to see and hear both students and staff speaking languages other than English. For students, being bilingual is a strength that could help them out as they embark upon planning for education and careers after they graduate from Argo.

If you speak more than one language, then taking the test for the Illinois Seal of Biliteracy would be a great move, and not just for clout. Open to juniors and seniors, the exam will be offered on Wednesday, October 21st in the Old Auditorium from 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Numerous flyers are posted around the school with QR codes to scan to register, or you can contact your counselor or Ms. Julius (jjulius@argohs.net) as well. The English requirement to take the test is a 4.8 or higher ACCESS score for English language learners, an ACT + Writing ELA score of 18 or higher, a score of 4 or 5 on AP English Language and Composition, to name a few. Students who earn a 4 or 5 in AP Spanish Language and Culture also qualify for the Seal, and there are other qualifying factors too. And while Arabic, Polish, and Spanish, in alphabetical order, are the most common foreign languages spoken at Argo, students can earn the Seal of Biliteracy in numerous other languages.

While the official Seal of Biliteracy is not awarded until graduation, current seniors who earned this distinction as juniors will be able to mention it on college applications as it will be unofficially mentioned on sixth semester transcripts. Another bonus to earning the Seal is the delayed gratification of earning two years credit in foreign language at Illinois public universities, which takes care of that undergraduate requirement. Also, you can parlay it towards bilingual teacher certification if that is your intended future career goal. *Pues, ¡échale ganas! Daj z siebie wszystko!*



BILINGUAL

Mega College and Career Fair

Bears vs. Packers, Barcelona vs. Real Madrid, Montagues vs. Capulets (sports fans are capable of high culture references after all), and, for some local flavor, Argo vs. Reavis.

In many cases, the maroon of fair Argo does not necessarily vibe well with the blue of our rivals at Reavis on the other side of Harlem Avenue, but a détente is on the horizon. More specifically, the inaugural AERO College and Career Fair will take place in the newly built fieldhouse at Reavis High School on Wednesday, September 30th, 6:00–8:00 PM. If you're using GPS, that is 6034 W 77th St., Burbank, IL.

College and Career Counselor Mr. Schutz is our school's liaison for this event, and he has been working in conjunction with counselors from the other schools that make up the AERO acronym: Argo, Evergreen Park, Reavis, and Oak Lawn.

There will be numerous representatives from colleges, both in and out of state, trade unions, job training, financial aid, all in one place for one stop browsing, asking questions, and formalizing postsecondary plans.

So, tell your parents/guardians, gather up your friends, seniors and anyone else who would find this event to be worthwhile in terms of planning for the future. 🍷



A.E.R.O.

In the Corner - Intern Edition

CC: What motivated you to study to become a school counselor?

JA: My counselor had a lasting impact on my life, and I truly believe my high school experience would not have been the same without her support. I chose to become a school counselor because I want to provide future students with the same guidance, encouragement, and care that she provided to me. Becoming a counselor is my way of giving back, and I am very happy that I chose this path.

CC: Which graduate program are you attending?

JA: I am currently attending Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, Illinois, where I am enrolled in the hybrid program that is typically two years, pursuing a Master's degree in School Counseling. I am also looking to get my LPC afterwards!

CC: What has impressed you so far about Argo students?

JA: Argo students have impressed me in many ways. Every student I have met has a goal and is motivated to achieve it, which has been fantastic to see. I have also appreciated how open, patient, and polite the students have been with me. Since I am an intern and still learning, their patience and kindness have made my experience especially encouraging.

CC: What have you learned from the experienced counselors about the job thus far?

JA: I learn something new from the counselors every day. One of my favorite parts of the experience has been observing their typical day-to-day responsibilities, especially how they approach one-on-one sessions with students. Watching experienced counselors interact with students has helped me develop a



The amazing Ms. Abraham.

clearer understanding of the kind of counselor I hope to become. I have also learned how to use open-ended questions and meaningful talking points to guide conversations with students. This has been an incredibly valuable learning experience already, and I am excited to continue growing. Each day, I feel my knowledge, confidence, and potential expanding.

CC: What do you like to do in your free time?

JA: In my free time, I enjoy working out, Pilates, reading, rollerblading, baking or cooking, traveling, watching the sunset or rise, going for walks, and having self-care days. I also love spending time with my boyfriend, family, friends and my dog. Sports have always been an important part of my life, so I also enjoy playing, watching, and coaching them when I can as well. My ideal weekend would include a great workout, plenty of time to relax, delicious food, sports, and quality time with the people I love. ☺