



**HAWK-EYE News**  
**SHMS/SHHS's**  
**“Community Outreach Letter”**  
**Fourth Edition - January 10, 2008**

*by P. Brown - G. Moore - V. Luchuck*

**Distribution of Newsletter:** by [pbrown@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:pbrown@access.k12.wv.us)

In order to ensure our parents/patrons are kept abreast of school developments we mail each edition of our Hawk-Eye home. We've attempted to streamline our address labels so that only one copy goes to each 6-12 family. In eliminating duplicate mailings we can distribute our news to local businesses – churches – senior centers – and our BOE Members. We hope you enjoy this summation of SHM/HS's “**Latest Happenings**”.

**Health Related Items:**

- *SHM/HS has a student on campus that will immediately go into anaphylactic shock if he/she comes in contact WITH ANY TYPE SPRAY PROPELLANT. Anaphylactic shock results in one's airway swelling shut with the victim possibly choking to death. We continue to warn our families of this concern. Spray propellants are to be immediately confiscated by all school employees if they are being used anywhere throughout our campus.*
- **Student Insurance:** Parents are reminded that by supporting our last School Levy all students are now covered by insurance. This policy covers injury of students having NO INSURANCE coverage and kicks in as “**secondary coverage**” for families having limited coverage. In question? Call Us.

**Christmas Choir Performances:**

We want to recognize and thank Mrs. Babs Smith, Choral Booster Parents, and certainly each of SHM/HS's 6-12 Choral Students for an outstanding performance this Holiday Season. Our singers performed for local and county clubs/organizations – our feeder schools – as well as the general public on three occasions. While we will make sure to get this year's performance on Channel 18 (*the Clarksburg Educational Channel*), copies of CDs can be obtained by emailing Mrs. Smith ([bgsmith@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:bgsmith@access.k12.wv.us)) for details/cost.



**Academic Booster Organization Progress:**

Research consistently confirms the make-up of a “**quality school program**” includes active involvement by staff, students and parents through multiple school related activities – **a balance if you will between academics and sports**. Parent participation in this organization is critical if our area of the county is to experience “**academic equity**” when compared to our four sister middle/high schools. You as parents (*ultimately voters*) wield great power with board members if you unite and work for the common good of SHM/HS's curriculum. Meetings are monthly (*the second Monday of the month @ 6:00*). Please plan to JOIN this organization in order to support your child/school.

**Recent progress includes:**

- Election of Officers and approval of By-Laws
- Parent representation/input to the new School Bond Committee as to how passage of a new school improvement bond might affect the SHHS Feeder Area.
- Parent representation @ Board Meetings.
- The start of designing a flow chart outlining those steps a parent needs to take to ensure their child is fully prepared to graduate and move on to post high school training.

- The purchase of a complete online software package in which our 6-12 students can receive academic tutoring to raise WESTEST Scores – ACT Test practice – College Application information – etc. **We thank Mrs. Mary Thrash, a former HCBOE employee and one who attended the South Harrison Area Schools,** for making a sizeable donation to the Academic Boosters for this excellent resource.

### “D” Policy Updates:

In attempting to **enlist all parents** into the education process of their children, **SHM/HS’s 6-12 Administration** has initiated three actions. **The first** delivers an automated message each six weeks to families reminding them to go online using Thinkwave codes to check student progress. **The second** is a message delivered to the home of those students actually having Ds at the mid-point of each grading period. **The third** offers GEAR-UP Tutoring from 10:00 – 1:00 M-W-F. Students will be allowed to exercise the option of coming out of class for 20-25 minute periods or eating their lunch while receiving such academic support. It is thought by taking these measures parents and staff members can share in the responsibility of raising student achievement.

**1<sup>st</sup> Related Item:** Since we have initiated the above tutoring during the actual instructional day 6-12 Academic Tutoring provided before/after school has been discontinued.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Related Item:** SHMS’s Student Council has met twice with the administration concerning suggested “D” Policy alterations for next school year.

### Ranking of WV’s High Schools – *Where is SHHS Ranked?*

We believe faculty, students & parents will be pleased with the fact that based upon the criteria of highly qualified staff members; the %of seniors moving on to college; the % of seniors taking the ACT and not moving on to college; the drop out rate; and the graduation rate, **South Harrison High School is ranked 45<sup>th</sup> out of 122 West Virginia High Schools!** BHS was #1 – Liberty was #38 – RCB was #48 & Lincoln was #84

### Art Work Display:

Watch for a new “**Student Art Display Area**” just inside both the high school and middle school’s front entrances. Additionally (*on the high school side*) we will update our “**Pillars of Responsibility**” located in the cafeteria. We thank Art Instructor Kathy Jackson for suggesting these projects.

### School Safety is Everywhere!

- Have you ever sat on the bleachers during one of SHHS’s Baseball Games and worried about getting hit by a foul ball? SHHS’s Safety Committee recently awarded Neel’s Fence Co. an \$1,819.00 contract to raise the fence in front of both the “**Home & Visitor sides**” prior to next season.
- HCBOE Purchasing Director Steve Casto has informed the administration the county is evaluating two bids from electronic companies that would link both buildings together with ONE COMMUNICATION/INTERCOM SYSTEM. Installation will ease communication & improve student safety.
- WYK Architect Bill Yoke visited the school prior to the holiday to relay the pending installation of new entrance points/doorways to both schools (*from funding obtained through the Governor’s Office School Safety initiative*) and windows (*from local levy funds*) long needed on the back side of the high school. Both projects are slated for Summer 08 completion.

### SHHS’s Cheer Squad 7<sup>th</sup> in State:

For the second year running SHHS’s Lady Hawks earned the right to participate in Charleston’s Single A State Level Competition. We congratulate the team as well as their coaches Erica Neal and Mark Bond and thank them for another wonderful year. CHECK OUT a larger than life size “**Billboard Photo**” of SHHS’s Cheer Squad on Rt. 19 N. outside Clarksburg’s City Limits.





## Middle School Semester Exams:

All middle school students will take skills tests as the first semester exams (*as in accordance to Harrison County Schools Policy*). The tests are not graded for the report card, but are used as a tool to evaluate student progress and design necessary lessons to address any deficiencies prior to the May WESTEST date.

South Harrison Middle Students will then be placed in re-teach sessions during noon AA periods according to the assessment data.

Those middle students in Algebra I and Spanish 1A and 1B will take a regular semester exam which **WILL count** on the report card. This is because the classes offer high school credit.

## High School Semester Exams:

- Students/Parents are reminded that the high school will be enforcing county policy relating to student absences. Students have five days (*after their absence*) to submit an excuse – if not presented within that window of time, excuses will not count when considering waiver of semester exams. Each office maintains a storage box where all excuses are to be submitted.

### Exemption Guidelines:

- Block classes (*90 minute classes*) – To be exempt within these courses, you must not have more than five excused absences (*home notes, doctor's notes, etc.*) and NO unexcused absences. If you do not have a 2.0 average IN THAT COURSE, your teacher may require you to take the exam regardless of your absences.
- In year-long classes (*45 minute classes*) – You cannot be exempt from first semester exams.

### If you meet the exemption standards:

*Having 4 classes:* You must take two exams in January and two exams in June. At least one of the two exams that you take must be a core class.

*Having 5 classes:* You must take three exams in January and one exam in June. In January, you must take the exams in each of your year-long classes (*45 minutes*). Additionally, you must take one other exam from your block classes. At least one of these exams must be a core class.

*Having 6 classes:* You must take four exams in January. You must take an exam in each of your year-long classes (*45 minutes*). At least one of these exams must be a core class. If one of the exams you take in January is a core exam and you maintain your exemption status, then you do not have to take any exams in June.

## Check Out SHM/HS's Websites:

Mr. Runner in the middle school and Mrs. Vincent in the high school do an excellent job of updating both sites with a variety (*Parent Resources – Master Schedules – Counseling Info – Menus – etc.*) of excellent information. Click on either/both to be informed.

<http://www.harcoboe.com/southharrisonmiddleschool>

<http://www.harcoboe.com/SouthHarrisonHighSchool>

## Have You Heard?

- Bob S was selected as one of six students in West Virginia to compete in the United States Senate Youth Program.
- A Harrison/Clarksburg Department of Health Report (*as of 12.10.07*) finds no violations in middle school (*a written quote of "Great Shape"*) & only minor work needed on a warmer in the high school (*a written quote of "otherwise Great*



*Shape*”). We thank our foods service staff for maintaining these areas at such a level of preparedness.

- The Harrison Chamber of Commerce selected Faith S 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner in the 2007 Sixth Grade Writing Contest – Faith’s Topic: *Peer Pressure: “Make It Work For You”*.
- Sarah P & Kylie C had their individual poems published recently within *The American Library of Poetry’s* - “2007 Honors Poetry Collection”.
- Jeddy Nicholson worked over the Holidays refinishing our floors and spot painting throughout the building. Make sure to thank Mr. Nicholas.
- Kayla B’s VFW Voice of Democracy Essay was selected this year’s winner by the local VFW Post. Kayla’s work now moves on to District Level.

### Parent & Patron Input Encouraged:

An informal “**Parent Coffee**” (a chance to discuss any topics on your mind with school administrators) has been scheduled for January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 p.m.

Parents of 6-12 students are invited to attend this session where ideas are encouraged to be voiced/discussed by all participants. SHM/HS has profited greatly in past years from suggestions offered from the community. “**Sitter Services**” will be provided by SHHS’s Students in the auditorium where snacks and a movie will be available.

### Community Services

Piano Lessons w/Dr. Virginia Raad  
Master Teacher – Internationally Recognized  
Call 782-2274

### Quote of the Issue

*“Worry is like a rocking chair – it gives you something to do, but doesn’t get you anywhere.” – Dorothy Galyean*

### Spirit Items for Sale

We have for sale (in both buildings) Spirit Clothing: Shirts/Hoodies/Caps – “**Hawk Country**” Rugs/Banners (recognizing our elementary, middle and high school) – &, “**Hawk Car Magnets**”.

*Promote our four schools through the purchase of these items.*

### CLARKSBURG MISSION PROJECT

Students in 6-12 are asked to contribute old clothing – shoes – purses – towels – sheets – etc. in this effort to underwrite the operating costs of the Mission. While families may think of these materials as junk, they are baled and sold in bulk to operations where they are remanufactured into rugs and rags. The Mission has been quite successful in obtaining several communities’ support – **Let’s do the same!**



### Soccer Update:

Soccer Coach Rick Casto has relayed that he and soccer supporters have aligned donated services to “**finish up**” the positioning and fine grading of our new athletic field located between the current softball and baseball fields. Additionally, Rick tells us movement of the current sewage pump station will be addressed. It is hoped we can have this new campus resource completed by early spring.

### VOLUNTEERS WELCOME:

We continue to need volunteers within both our facilities – *SHMS/SHHS*). Call either school today and speak with the administration (*Ms. Luchuck – Mr. Moore – Mr. Brown*) for more information.

**Inclement Weather:**

We remind 6-12 families to check the multiple news sources for announcements of delays, cancellations or early outs. It is critical each child knows where he/she is to shelter during these cold months. Also please remember if a bus does not run due to weather students are not counted absent. In order to keep our attendance program accurate, we do request a note be sent to the school upon your child's return.

**FYI Parents:**

Harrison County Schools notifies parents of their right to request information on their children's teachers' qualifications: Meeting state certification requirements for grade level and subject taught; whether teaching via provisional waiver or emergency permit; degree major and graduate certification, and the field discipline. If you would like to request this information, please contact Kay Devono, Federal Programs Director, at 304-326-7395 or via email [mdevono@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:mdevono@access.k12.wv.us)

# South Harrison School Spirit