

August 2021

Welcome Back!
Jr High School



SCHS mission statement: The mission of Southern Cayuga Jr/Sr High School is to create an environment that is conducive to personal and academic excellence. This will be accomplished by creating a school community that embodies the principles of being: Safe, Respectful, Responsible, and Kind.

SC Jr/Sr HS Newsletter

High School Newsletter

On the web: <http://www.southern cayuga.org>

Principal's Message

Dear Jr HS Students & Families,

This communication is a follow-up to the letter and emails sent to families and students on the start of the school year. On behalf of the Jr HS teaching staff, we want to extend a warm welcome to the 2021-22 school year. We are excited to welcome all our students back to in-person learning. We are proud of our students and school community as we work together to accomplish our learning plan and goals this year. At this point, I would like to review our planning for the start of school.

Student School Visitation Day... Sept 1, 2:00-4:00pm. Families, please park on the Emily Howland side of the building and enter the school at the South door by the 6th grade classrooms. We will have copies of student schedules available for students to visit their classroom and locker locations.

First Day of School... All students in grades 7-12 will report to their advisory classroom upon arrival at school, then follow their regular schedule. In lieu of meeting with students to review expectations, I will send students a recorded presentation to review our Code of Conduct and Health & Safety precautions. In addition, on the students' first day, they will receive an updated schedule, student agenda/planner delivery will be delay until mid to late September.

All students will engage with teachers on a daily basis for in-person instruction.

- At the Jr & Sr HS level (grades 7-12) new content instruction will be delivered each day via in-person instruction & Google Classroom.
- Daily class attendance will be expected and monitored.
- Google Classroom will be the platform for the exchange of curriculum materials, student work, communication, and feedback.
- The pace of instruction, including due dates and assessment dates will be communicated via Google Classroom and Schoology. If you do not have a Schoology account, please contact Mrs. Schmitt (schmittp@southern cayuga.org) for more information. Also, department grading and reporting practices will be employed.

Face PPE... All students will be required to wear a mask during the school day when they are inside. Exceptions are classroom mask break, and while eating or drinking. Masks are not required while students are eating lunch. When students are finished with their lunch but still in the cafeteria they will be asked to wear their mask (this is for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students).

Locker use... All students will be issued a locker. We have enough lockers to use every other one to create spacing. Students can use their locker when switching classes. Students may carry a small mesh or clear bag. We ask students to place their regular size backpack in their locker during the school day for a couple of reasons, one is for overall safety the other is to reduce the amount items on the floor in classrooms. Students will not change for PE (at least for the first 6 weeks of school) so no PE lockers will be assigned.

Student arrival times (students driving or drop off)... Times are as follows...

For students who are dropped off at school... 7:25-7:40am

School begins... 7:40am

Student dismissal... 2:13pm

Bus pick-up times will be communicated by our transportation department.

School Supplies.... In the letter mailed home earlier this month, students will not need school many supplies at this point. We will give students folders, paper, pens, pencils for the start of the school year. The majority of student work will be completed and stored via their Chromebook and Google Drive.

Last, a quick reminder, you can find information and announcements on the Jr/Sr High School homepage via www.southern cayuga.org. Should you have any questions, please let me know.

Take care. Stay Safe. Go Chiefs!
Luke A. Carnicelli, Principal

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What is Project-Based Learning?

Project-based learning (PBL) is an instructional model that involves students in investigations of ‘real-life’ problems that culminate in authentic products. Projects that make for stronger classroom learning opportunities can vary widely in subject matter and scope and can be delivered at a wide range of grade levels.

Project-Based Courses in 7th & 8th grade

Grade 7 Explorations Courses... AgriScience, Art, Writing Lab/Maker Space, STEM/Woodworking

Grade 8 Explorations Courses... Robotics/Programming, Studio Art, Plant/Animal Science

Staff Contact Information (grades 7-12)

You can also leave a voicemail message for a teacher at 364.7111 or email (LastNameFirstInitial@southern cayuga.org).

Luke Carnicelli, Principal
Caitlin Wasielewski, Assistant Principal/AD

2021-22 SC Jr HS Teaching Staff

Kathleen Vona (ELA 7/8)

Meghan Picciano (ELA 7, ELA ReTeach 7/8)

Mary Beth Howell (Math 7, Math ReTeach 7/8)

Colton Gregg (Math 8, STEM 7)

Simone Lanning (Science 7/8)

Steve Baumes (Social Studies 7/8)

Tim Amory (Studio Art, Art 7)

Bill Zimpfer (Writing Lab 7)

Justine Morrison (Resource 7/8)

Kathy Perez (Spanish I - gr. 8)

Greg Otis (PE 7/8)

Heather Snyder (STEM 8)

Halee Wasson (AgriScience 7/8)

Cathy Murray (Health 7)

Jennifer Diana (Music 7, Chorus 7/8)

Elissa Murphy (Music 7, Band 7/8)

Support Staff

Nate Van Hall (Jr HS Counselor)

Joanne Cartner (Main Office/Athletics Secretary)

Paula Schmitt (Guidance Office Secretary)

Anne Reynolds (Nurse)

Bill Hasenjager (Jr/Sr HS Security Guard)

Ryan Vanacore (Teaching Assistant - Testing room)

Martha Bielowicz (Teacher Aide - Jr HS)

Janice Bizzari (Teacher Aide - Jr HS)

Carissa Smith (Librarian/Media Specialist)

ReTeach Program (grades 7 & 8)

The goal of ReTeach is to provide 7/8 students the opportunity to master essential skills and knowledge in math & ELA before moving on to the next concept. Teacher(s) will meet with students who are struggling with a concept on an every other day rotation to provide additional time and attention toward the curriculum. Students needing intensive help will be scheduled for additional ReTeach time to ensure mastery of skills and quality homework completion.

2021-22 Jr HS Class Schedule

Junior High	Advisory	Block 1	Block 2	Lunch 7/8	Block 3	Period 7	Period 8
	7:40-7:58	8:00-9:23	9:26-10:49	10:49-11:19	11:22-12:45	12:48-1:28	1:31-2:13

SC Jr/Sr HS Community Advisory Council (CAC)

Background: A large part of our success at SC Jr/Sr HS is tied directly to home-school communication and parental support of our school mission. The CAC is designed to advise the Principal & AP with strategies that the school staff can use to assist with the home-school connection.

Charge: To support academics at home, To make suggestions for the best ways to communicate with parents, to discuss special academic initiatives.

Meetings: We will schedule meetings during the 2021-22 school year via Zoom every 8 weeks and communicate via email.

Email carnicellil@southern cayuga.org if you would like further information.

Attendance Policy (grades 7-12)

Attendance Policy (As stated in the Student Handbook)

Every student has the right to educational opportunities that will enable the student to develop to his or her fullest potential. To maximize these opportunities, it is the responsibility of the student to be in attendance daily. Southern Cayuga Jr/Sr High School is committed to the philosophy that every student should attend every class every day. Regular attendance and promptness is expected in all classes and are essential for student success in school.

An absence will be recorded for each that a student is not present within the class.

Families, please contact the HS office or your child's teachers if they are not able to attend class.

Under New York State Education Law Section 3205, parents are responsible for the regular attendance of their children for instruction. State law mandates that students must attend school until the age of 16. Students must finish the school year upon turning 16 years of age. Schools are required to code absences (the reason) for the attendance records. When no reliable information is received within a reasonable period, absence will be considered unexcused.

Advisory

Advisory will be scheduled for each student in grades 7-12, every day. Most teachers in grades 7-12 will be assigned an advisement group. The main purpose behind creating this time for faculty and students is to better prepare students for the demands of the day and assist students in establishing a better connection between what they are learning in school and their goals beyond high school.

Dress Code

As stated on page 16-17 of the student handbook. We believe that appropriate attire is important in developing worthwhile attitudes about the importance of school. Teachers and all other personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting. Students will wear clothing and carry possessions (pack, PPE, etc.) that are appropriate for the school atmosphere. Students may carry string packs that are smaller in size which are clear or mesh. Small purses/handbags may also be carried for personal items only.

The Agenda Planner

Students will get an agenda during the first month of school (due to a delay in shipping). This is a place to write down all assignments, tests and other activities. The planner has a travel pass section and will have a place to keep a student's school ID and schedule.

SC Jr/Sr HS Student Planner & Code of Conduct

This year, same as last, we ask students to have their planner with them at all times except when at lunch. A planner will be provided to each student at no charge. Additional planners will be available to students for \$1.00 each. We believe that students should keep track of their busy schedule, assignments, events, and goals throughout the year. The planner is an excellent organizational tool that will assist with students' daily demands in and outside the classroom and will be used for hall and classroom passes. Included in the planner is the SCCS code of conduct as well as all the policies and expectations at SC Jr/Sr HS. I ask that you review this document with your child. A copy of the 2021-22 handbook can be found on the Jr/Sr high school homepage via the SCCS webpage: <http://www.southerncayuga.org>

NYS Dignity Act (www.nysed.gov)

The Dignity Act was signed into law on September 13, 2010 and took effect on July 1, 2012. **New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.**

One of the leading causes of bullying and harassment in school is the use of social media. Due to the Dignity Act law, we at Southern Cayuga Jr/Sr High School will be especially strict with any social media issue that may lead to a disruption in any students' school day.

Student cell phone use is restricted, but not banned during school hours. Students not complying with school staff regarding the use of their phone may have it confiscated. The school is not responsible for any lost/misplaced phones but will reasonably assist should an issue occur with a phone or electronic item. We will cover the following SCHS policy at the beginning of the school year.

CELL PHONE USE IS PERMITTED DURING SCHOOL HOURS WITH STAFF PERMISSION. Students who use their phones without permission during school hours are subject to disciplinary actions including confiscation of the phone. Note: If a student fails to turn the phone over to a staff member the student will be subject to ISS or OSS. It is recommended that if a student chooses to bring an electronic device to school (e.g. cell phone, etc...) they keep it on their person or placed in their locker.**

Lockers

Must be locked at all times. Students will be able to access their hall locker throughout the school day.

At this point we will not be using the PE locker room so there will be no lockers/locks distributed at this time.

Our Mission...

We have worked diligently to ensure the best start to the new school year. Always know that you are welcome to email or call the High School or Guidance Office with any questions or concerns. Also, a quick reminder, you can find information and announcements on the Jr/Sr High School homepage via www.southerncayuga.org.

As our mission statement reads... *The mission of Southern Cayuga Jr/Sr High School is to create an environment that is conducive to personal and academic excellence. This will be accomplished by creating a school community that embodies the principles of being: Safe, Respectful, Responsible, and Kind.* I hope that every student strives for her/his best. On behalf of the staff at the Jr/Sr High School, we look forward to a year filled with opportunity and success.

As always, if there is anything I can answer or assist with, please do not hesitate to call or email me at 364.7111 x2103 or carnicellil@southerncayuga.org.