Sweet April showers do spring May flowers. Thomas Tusser

Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence. Robert Frost

Upcoming Events:

April 2 – April 5

Thursday, April 4
District Art Show
Teacher Leader Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room
Varisty Softball vs. Greece Odyssey, 4:30 p.m., SHS

Thursday, April 4
Varisty Track @ Irondequoit, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 4
Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Greece, 6:15 p.m., Ranger Stadium

Friday, April 5
End of Third Quarter

Friday, April 5
Varsity Baseball vs. Victor, 4:30 p.m., SHS

Friday, April 5
Boys Varsity Tennis vs. East Irondequoit, 4:30 p.m., SHS

Friday, April 5
Girls Varsity Lacrosse @ Schroeder, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 6
Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Hilton, 3:00 p.m., Ranger Stadium

Monday, April 8
BPT, 2:25 p.m., Conference Room

Monday, April 8
Boys Varsity Golf vs. Batavia @ Terry Hills, 3:00 p.m.

Monday, April 8
Varsity Baseball vs. Irondequoit, 4:30 p.m., SHS

Monday, April 8
Varsity Softball @ Hilton, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, April 8
Boys Varsity Tennis @ Hilton, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, April 8
Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Victor, 6:15 pm.

Tuesday, April 9
Faculty Meeting, 2:25 p.m., PAC

Tuesday, April 9
Boys Varsity Tennis @ Honeoye Falls-Lima, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9
Varsity Track @ Churchville, 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 9
Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs. Brighton, 6:15 p.m., Ranger Stadium

Tuesday, April 9
Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., District Office

Wednesday, April 10
Varsity Baseball @ Irondequoit, 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 10
Varsity Softball vs. Irondequoit, 4:30 p.m., SHS

Wednesday, April 10
Boys Varsity Tennis vs. Arcadia, 4:30 p.m., SHS

Wednesday, April 10
Girls Varsity Lacrosse vs. Irondequoit, 6:15 p.m., Ranger Stadium

Thursday, April 11
Boys Varsity Golf vs. Churchville @ Mill Creek, 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 11
Varsity Baseball @ Hilton, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 11
Boys Varsity Lacrosse @ Brockport, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 12
Superintendent’s Conference Day, No School for Students

Friday, April 12
Third Quarter Report Cards Mailed Home

Friday, April 12
Girls Varsity Lacrosse TBD, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 13
ACT Exam, 7:45 a.m.

Saturday, April 14
Varsity Baseball @ Disney Sports Complex, Time TBD

April 15 – April 19
Spring Recess, No School

Monday, April 15
Varsity Softball @ Charleston, SC, Time TBD

Tuesday, April 17
Varsity Baseball @ Disney Sports Complex, Time TBD
Student Updates

- Two seniors recently finished their Senior Project with a demonstration at BOCES - 2 / WEMOCO class. Courtney Brown and Amber Van Epps have been enrolled in the Cosmetology course for the past two years. Courtney is in Mrs. Robinson's class and Amber is in Mrs. Doran's class. The students over two years cover, hair, skin and nails. After completion of the program, they have the qualifications necessary to take the New York State Licensing Boards. Courtney shared how the program taught not only the technical skills needed but also the interpersonal skills needed in a service field.
On Thursday March 14, Senior Garret Meier taught a fire prevention lesson in Mrs. Casler's second grade class at Taylor Elementary School. The lesson was part of Garret's Senior Project in which he researched the evolution of firefighting. The second grade students were very impressive with their questions and politeness. Garret will be attending SUNY Geneseo and hopes to start volunteering with the Spencerport Fire Department.

Members of the Service Learning Internship program volunteered at St. Peter's Soup Kitchen on Brown Street. The students arrived Monday morning, March 4, ready to go. They spent time making salad, fruit cups and tasty treats. The menu also included turkey and gravy, vegetables, and potatoes. The students enjoyed prepping the meal and especially serving the guests. What a great group of seniors!
Staff Reminders/Updates

- Any proposals for new clubs for the 2019-2020 school year are due to my office by May 30, 2019. I would like to collect all of these proposals at one time so Ty can review them and then prepare to present them all at once to the School Board.

- Val/Sal Committee: On Monday night (4/1/19) there was a community information night during which the committee presented its recommendations to interested community members and answered questions that anyone had in a round table format. The recommendations that the committee will present to the Board of Education and Mr. Milgate for their consideration are as follows:

  1) End traditional class ranking. Replace with decile system. Seniors are placed into deciles each quarter of their senior year. Students are sorted in order of their weighted cumulative GPA from highest to lowest, and then divided into 10 equal parts. Students are assigned a number between 1 and 10 to represent their decile placement. The students with the highest cumulative weighted GPA’s are placed in Decile 1.

  2) Recognize the following at graduation:
     - Summa Cum Laude (With Highest Honor): 4.7 or above
     - Magna Cum Laude (With Great Honor): 4.5 to 4.69
     - Cum Laude (With Honor): 4.2 to 4.49
     This recognition would take the place of recognizing 15 consecutive quarters on honor roll. Students would receive cords for each level of recognition.

  3) Speakers for graduation
     - Student Speakers
       - President of Student Government: current system
       - President of Senior Class: current system
       - Student selected from applicants from 4.5 and above: new
       - Student selected from student body by student vote of those students who apply: new
     **All speeches still to be approved by principal and/or faculty**
     - Faculty Speaker (in place of Principal’s closing remarks)
Faculty member selected by senior class council

Next Tuesday (4/9/19) the committee will present these recommendations to the School Board. If you have any questions about this work, please feel free to ask one of the committee members: David Gibbardo (Board of Ed), Heidi Morgan, Megan Sarkis (SUNY Brockport), Christina Falbo, Kristen Paolini, Sandi Ben-Dov, Jake Lenhard, Tony Guzzetta, Jamie Schneider, Tim O’Connor, Alex Elkins, Katie Mason, Melissa Garofalo, Mark Muenzer (RIT).

− In the coming weeks, we will be practicing more emergency drills (including fire drills). Tim O’Connor will send out an email to staff with our spring fire drill schedule and will send out separate emails to staff with details on our other drills (lock down, hold in place, etc.) a few days prior to each on occurring. Please continue to review your emergency plans and keep them in a readily accessible location both for you and a substitute teacher.

− Attendance needs to be taken within the first 5 minutes of every class. Taking timely and accurate attendance is another important aspect of student safety. This needs to be part of your daily procedures for each class. Overall this has improved greatly, but our goal with this procedure is a 100% accuracy.

− Advisement reminder: Students traveling during Advisement need to have a pre-signed pass. Honor passes are not in effect during Advisement. If students are sent to the bathroom/locker, they should have a pass in their planners. Everyone’s consistency with this expectation is greatly appreciated. I have been stationed in the 2nd floor hallways more frequently during Advisement and have noticed an improvement with students having their planners and signed passes. I would like to see this improvement/consistency continue.

− As message from Gerry: Sean, I need your help. Please inform the staff that in order for the heating units to work properly, the fan must be running. If they feel that the room is not heating or cooling properly, please call or send me a note so I can look into it and get facilities to make repairs as needed.

− Arrive Alive: On Wednesday, April 24, we will be hosting our first Arrive Alive event for all juniors. This is a new tradition for us and one that we are very excited about! The purpose of this event is to provide an opportunity for our students to be educated on the dangers of driving under the influence or driving while distracted. The simulator will be set up behind the Auxiliary Gym near the softball field. If the weather does not cooperate, the event will be held in the Auxiliary Gym. We will be holding an informational assembly for all juniors on Monday, April 22, during advisement. Students will be assigned a specific time throughout the day (Wednesday, April 24) and will receive a pass via Schoology to attend. We will be posting a full schedule on Schoology as well. Please ask students to see their passes on Schoology prior to them leaving your room. Each grouping will last roughly 45 minutes, depending on the order in which students complete the simulation. Students will then return to class immediately following their turn in the simulator. We invite all faculty and staff to come down during any point of the day to observe or experience the event! If you would like more information on the specific event, check out this link! https://arrivealivetour.com/unite/

− Attention all 9th, 10th and 11th grade advisement teachers: From the Counseling Department: Career Interest Survey (Explorer’s Survey) Students face many difficult challenges regarding career decisions. Exploring is a career education program for high school-age young men and women based on a unique and dynamic connection between youth and the businesses in their communities. Local organizations are matched to the interests of young people in the community using this career interest survey. The result of this program
helps our students pursue their special interest which help with career decision making. This survey does NOT enroll them in the program, rather it gathers information on their interests.

NEW ONLINE SURVEY 2019 – We will no longer be handing out paper copies of the survey. All students will take a new online version during advisement. The survey should take students no longer than five minutes to complete. This survey will then generate opportunities for Exploring programs that will be mailed home and sent via email. Directions for the survey will be in staff mailboxes April 8. Students will have until **April 30 to complete**. Please choose a day that works best for your advisement. This is not mandatory for students, so they may choose to not participate but it is highly recommended that they do.

PLEASE return the roster form to Jocelyn Paolozzi no later than **April 30**. Please only report students who completed the survey. Thank you!

− On Thursday, May 9, we will be completing the US Department of Education School Climate Survey. This survey is for both students AND staff. The survey can be completed via laptops. We will simply add ten minutes to Advisement on this day to make sure everyone has enough time to complete the survey. Both first block and second block will be five minutes shorter than normal. I will send out a schedule with this highlighted as the date approaches.

− Academic Excellence Week: Students who have consistently been on the honor roll and high honor roll will be recognized during our annual Academic Excellence Week starting Monday, May 14. Juniors will be called down on Monday (5/13) & Tuesday (5/14), and seniors will be called down on Wednesday (5/15) & Thursday (5/16). Student names will be announced by a slideshow played in the last five minutes of first block, and those students will then proceed to the waterfall to pick up their bar/letter.

− Senior DWI Assembly and Class Elections: On Friday, May 31, we will be conducting the DWI Assembly for the Senior Class and Class Elections for the other three classes. The front loop will be blocked off. Please plan on parking in one of the other parking lots. Students in grades 9-11 are to report directly to their Advisement classroom on Friday morning at 7:25 a.m. Seniors are to report directly to the West Café at 7:25 a.m. Please remind your students throughout the week of the unique schedule. **This year, we will be completing all Class Election votes electronically and students will be asked to stay in their Advisements. Students will NOT be reporting to alternate locations as in years past.** Students who are running for class office will be given the opportunity to record their speeches prior to May 31. During the morning of May 31, we will ask that Advisement teachers share these videos with their students. Once all students’ speeches have been shared, Advisement classrooms will vote using the ballot on Schoology. The Senior DWI Assembly may take longer than the allotted 40 minutes. If necessary, an announcement will be made informing teachers that seniors have been dismissed to first block.

− **Modified Schedule for May 31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advisement</td>
<td>7:25-8:05</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8:10-9:20</td>
<td>70 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (return to normal schedule)</td>
<td>9:25-10:45</td>
<td>Announcements 80 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10:50-12:45</td>
<td>115 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>12:50-2:10</td>
<td>80 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity Period</td>
<td>2:20-2:50</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NOTE: Any teachers/staff that are free during the DWI Assembly are certainly invited to attend. If the weather does not cooperate, this event will occur on Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

Upcoming faculty meetings:
4/9/19: Breakout sessions with our Digital Conversion Team. Please refer to the email Cory Allen sent out yesterday (4/1/19) and be sure to select the session you would like to attend by Friday April 5.
4/23/19: Breakout sessions on student behavior discussion. More information to follow from BPT on the format for these sessions. We will be working on a schedule so all staff can participate in these discussions.

Principal’s Message
I hope everyone has had a great start to the week. I think the weather has finally turned (fingers crossed!). Next week Gerry will be opening the courtyard for students and that is certainly a sign that Spring has finally arrived 😃. Please note that this Thursday and Friday (4/4 and 4/5) I will be out of the building on the music trip to Nashville. Jenn, Jess, Steve, and Tim will be holding down the fort with each of you! I certainly will be available via email or phone for any pressing issues that might arise.

I would like to thank the entire faculty for their participation in our grading discussion. Below is a copy of the email I sent out last week….I think it sums up my thoughts on this process pretty well so rather than try and rewrite it I thought I would simply use it again:

Below are the results from the vote we took as a faculty on the draft of our proposed grading philosophy:

Yes-82 people=83%
No-16 people=16%
Unsure-1 person=1% (that wasn’t a choice 😁!)

I want to thank everyone that did take the time to vote. Please know I greatly respect everyone’s opinion and certainly I wish we had been able to achieve 100% agreement. With that being said, I believe that 83% of the faculty in support is a solid foundation for our continued discussion. So moving forward this will be the grading philosophy we will use as a building as we continue our work on grading. I hope no one reads this email as the start of some impending doom. I assure you it is not. In upcoming faculty meetings and Teacher Leader meetings, we will discuss how we can use this grading philosophy to guide our continued work as a faculty. Discussions, collaboration, debate, professional development have not stopped with this vote. They have only begun 😁!! I truly appreciate everyone’s willingness to engage in this discussion as this is really difficult and challenging work but I believe, as I hope all of you do, no matter how you voted, that it is very important work.

The building’s grading philosophy moving forward:
As teachers and instructional leaders in Spencerport High School, we understand that the purpose of grading is to serve as a method of measuring and communicating student achievement of, and/or towards a content standard (learning target).

I am very excited to continue this work with each of you!

Transitioning to health and wellness, a big thank you once again to Jackie and Aurora for all of their work on our Health and Wellness initiative. I hope everyone participates in the Wellness March Madness Challenge! Please refer to the email/PowerPoint sent by Jackie on 3/22/19 for details.

I hope everyone has a great rest of the week! Please feel free to see me at any time with questions, concerns, or comments…all the best! Sean

Below is another article on grading…a quick and easy read if you so choose…😊.

Ask Yourself, Why Am I Grading This?
Posted on February 14, 2019 by Catlin Tucker

“If I don’t grade it, students won’t do it.” This reasoning leaves teachers with piles of work to grade, but I wonder how much of that time spent assigning points to student work results in improved student performance.

I fell into this trap at the start of my teaching career. I gave points for completing annotations, bringing books to class, and completing homework. By the end of the semester, I had over a hundred assignments in my grade book. I was exhausted by the never-ending pile of paperwork that cast a shadow on my life beyond school.

A few years ago, I hit a breaking point. My grades didn’t feel like an accurate reflection of my students’ skills, and I was spending hours wading through paperwork instead of designing dynamic learning experiences for my students. Now, when I work with teachers, I encourage them to ask these questions: What is the purpose of this work? Why am I grading this?

Below is a simple flowchart to help teachers think about the purpose of student work.
Too often students are penalized for making mistakes on assignments that are designed to help them develop and refine their skills before an assessment. If teachers assign homework or in-class assignments with the goal of helping students to practice, I don’t think that work should receive a grade that goes into a grade book. Instead, the goal of that work should be to help the student learn the material. Mistakes during practice should be celebrated as part of the learning process. If we penalize students who make mistakes while practicing a skill, we create an environment where mistakes are scary. This negatively impacts student motivation and can cause students unnecessary anxiety. When students are working toward a finished product that will be assessed for a grade, they need feedback and support. If teachers create time in class to provide feedback, they shift the focus from the product to the process. Too often, students do not receive feedback until they have submitted a finished product and receive a grade. Feedback on a finished product is not useful to students. I’d like to see more teachers design blended lessons that allow them the time and space to provide feedback as students work. This feedback pays dividends because the final products will be stronger.

Assessments and finished products need a grade, but many teachers either grade holistically so students are unsure why they received the grade they got or they use monster rubrics composed of so many criteria that grading a finished product takes weeks. I suggest teachers downsize and keep grading more manageable for themselves and their students. Use a simple rubric and select 2-3 specific skills to grade. For example, if students complete a research paper, teachers can limit their focus to three elements, 1) evidence, 2) analysis, and 3) organization. If teachers narrow their focus to a few elements and enter those as separate scores in the grade book, students and parents will have a better sense of what to work on in the future.

The longer I spend in education, the more I have come to embrace the mantra “less is more.” By grading less, we may actually give our students and ourselves more. The more time we spend grading work that doesn’t fall into the category of assessment or finished product, the less time we have to provide feedback, design engaging lessons, and recharge physically, mentally, and emotionally at home.