

SPHS TechTimes

"A teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron"
Horace Mann

SPHS Community,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our students and staff back to SPHS!!!! I hope that all of you are looking forward to an exciting year. Having had the opportunity to collaborate with all of our staff last week, I know that the teachers are anxious for the arrival the 2016 - 2017 school year.

SPHS is pleased to welcome several new members to our staff for the 2016 – 2017 school year. I would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome, Alyson Niewold who will be new to the SPHS AGS Department. She will be teaching 9th and 12th grade students in the AGS program. She comes to us a graduate of the UCF Art Animation program. SPHS is also excited to have Amy Badovinac join our staff. Amy comes to SPHS having taught Animation at both the high school and collegiate levels for the last ten years. She will be teaching 10th and 11th grade students this school year. SPHS is fortunate to have two new outstanding members in our English Department. Robert Przekwas joins us having spent the past year at North Port High School. Prior to his arrival in Sarasota, Mr. Przekwas taught English for 10 years at Collegiate Academy of Colorado. Tonya Richardson is joining the SPHS staff after having spent the past two years teaching at Booker Middle School. Before joining our district, Ms. Richardson taught English at Eleanor Roosevelt High School for 15 years in Maryland. During that time she distinguished herself as Teacher of the Year. Winona Lowe will be our new ESE Resource Teacher. Ms. Lowe is joining the SPHS staff having spent the last year at Venice Middle School. Ms. Lowe is a Certified Professional Developer for the Center for Research and Learning: Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) at the University of Kansas. She also served as an ESE Liaison at Laurel Nokomis School where she was named Teacher of the Year. Joshua Ramsdell will join our math department this year having spent the last four years at North Port High School. Joshua has been teaching math in our district since 2007 and is a proud product of Pine View School.

Students and parents, upon your return to SPHS, you may notice that the exterior of the building looks slightly different. The exterior of SPHS was painted this summer, giving it a clean look to start the year.

SPHS is very proud of its strong academic reputation and history of student success. This year SPHS students achieved terrific results on the End of Course examinations in both **US History** and **Biology**. 90% of SPHS students that took these exams met or exceeded the state standard for success. Additionally, SPHS students continued to set high standards in **Mathematics** and **Reading**. In mathematics, SPHS students increased proficiency by 7 percentage points and 80% of SPHS students achieved mastery in reading. Our teachers continually raise the bar for our students at SPHS and they continue to achieve great results. Congratulations to all!!!! SPHS would also like to thank our parents

who continue to support their students at home in all educational endeavors. Student achievement is truly a community effort.

All SPHS students will report directly to their seminar classes on **Monday, August 22nd**. This includes students who have morning classes at Suncoast Technical College. Students will continue to report directly to those seminar classes each morning during the first week of school.

SPHS will follow a seminar schedule for the first week of school this year. All SPHS students will meet with their seminar groups beginning on **Monday, August 22 and concluding on Friday, August 26**. Beginning **Monday, August 29**, SPHS students will return to their normal schedules and have a seminar schedule regularly on Wednesday only, throughout the year. .

SPHS is also continually seeking ways to enhance technology on its campus. This year, all **9th, 10th, and 11th Grade** students will be offered the opportunity to take possession of a **Surface 3**. This device is intended for their educational use throughout their four years at SPHS. SPHS will continue to grow this program in the coming years by providing the same opportunity to each subsequent class. SPHS staff will distribute **Surface 3** units to students in the **9th grade** during seminar in the first week of school. **10th and 11th Grade** students new to SPHS will receive their Surface 3 units the following week.

The first meeting of the SPHS School Advisory Committee will take place on **Monday, September 12** from **2:30 – 3:30 p.m.** in the **SPHS Junior Quad**. The combined **SPHS/STC SAC** will meet later that evening beginning at **5:30 p.m.**

Our first SPHS Booster Meeting of the year will take place next **Wednesday, September 7th**. **Gail Opperman** from the **Microsoft Store at UTC** will speak to parents of **9th Grade** about insuring Surface 3 devices. SPHS staff members will be available to assist parents with **Student/Parent Portal (Gradebook), Blackboard, OneNote, Remind.com, PeachJar** and more. I would highly encourage parents new to SPHS to attend this meeting as SPHS teachers and staff will be utilizing all of these platforms with your students this year.

At SPHS, our mission and vision is to prepare students for colleges and careers. Taking the SAT and/or the ACT is one step along the path to college. **September 16th** is the registration deadline for the **October 22nd ACT**. **September 1st** is the registration deadline for students wishing to take the **October 1st SAT test**.

Trent Terry, Assistant Director Suncoast Polytechnical High School