

THE SPRESS

October 2023

* NEW FACES

* SCHEDULE

* BIRTHDAYS

Garden of Enchantment

Savannah Booth & Callie Heynes



Homecoming Court: Faith Newell, Ava Simone, Madison Dubyak, Libby Cassidy, Monroe Polis, Riley Ziegler, Zachary Ludwig, Nicolas Bove, Thomas Vandenhoven, Aidan D'Agostino, Kaiden Fischer, Matthew Chekan

Homecoming Game

October 6, 2023, will be the homecoming game for South Park High School. The football team will go against Quaker Valley High School at Eagle Stadium. The theme will be a white out and the game will start promptly at 7:00 PM. School football games are filled with excitement for players, band, cheerleaders, and students. All of these students can always use the support of their peers. It is a great way to celebrate our school and all of the hard work put into the games by everyone involved. High school football games are a staple of America's youth and a great way to work up our school spirit for South Park High School's homecoming.

Pep Rally

A homecoming pep rally will be held on October 6, the day of the Friday night homecoming game. It will be held at the end of the day during 11th period. Hopefully this sparks the student body to get hype for the weekend to come.

Spirit Week Theme Days

Monday- PJ Day
Tuesday- Neon Day
Wednesday- Barbie/Ken Pink Out Day
Thursday- Jersey Day
Friday- Blue Out

Bringing in new energy

Alana Deily

Some people noticed the new science teacher in the halls at South Park High School. The new teacher is Mr. Igims, who teaches honors physics, AP physics, and physical science. Even though he is new to South Park High School, he was teaching physics in North Carolina for the past 8 years.

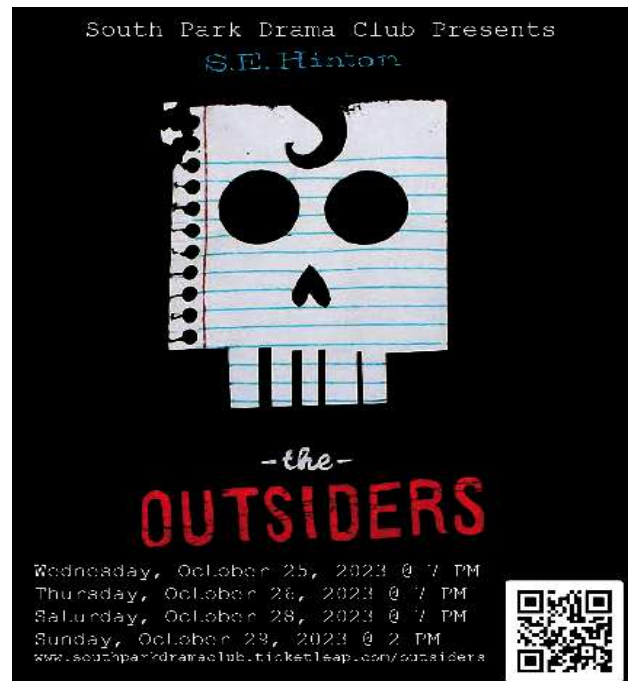
While he taught in North Carolina for 8 years, he was born and raised near the Pittsburgh area. He graduated from Langley High School, after graduating he went to Parris Island for Marine Corps Boot Camp. The next January, he started at Slippery Rock University where he completed a Bachelor's in Physics and a Master's in Education; while he was attending the university, he served in the Marine Corps Reserve as a Motor Transport Operator.

After he graduated from Slippery Rock University, he moved to North Carolina where he started teaching in a classroom right away. While teaching in North Carolina for 8 years he taught Earth Science, Astronomy, Physical Science, Honors Physics, and AP Physics. In addition to teaching he also coached wrestling. He reported, "While at Franklin I was the assistant wrestling coach my first year

and the head coach for the next 7 years coaching multiple state qualifiers and state placers some of which are wrestling in D-1 schools this year." Shortly after he moved to North Carolina, he transferred from the Marine Reserve to the NC National Guard then to PA National Guard, which he is currently serving in his 15th year of his military career. Now that he is back in the Pittsburgh area, he enjoys being close to family.

When Mr. Igims was deciding to be a teacher, it wasn't hard for him to decide what subject to teach. He is interested in how and why things work the way that they do, that is why he got into teaching physics. It is hard for him to decide what concept is his favorite. Mr. Igims directly states, "It's hard to decide on just one concept in physics because everything builds off each other." He adds that he enjoys Kinematics, "which is the main focus of high school physics, is where a lot of connections to the real world can be made."

His enthusiasm for physics makes him an excellent addition to the science department for South Park. We are delighted to have him, sharing his knowledge of physics with the students.



Sounds like something new

Addison Yochum

After Mrs. Barbone transitioned to the middle school to teach music, the position was left open. Mr. Sisley, the new band director and music teacher, came from Steel Valley this year to fill that position. Even though the school year didn't start until late August, he's been working at the high school since July to help the marching band practice their routine.

Mr. Sisley has always been passionate about music, ever since he was born. He grew up around music, since his mother has two degrees in music. She played in the church, so that inspired his love for music. He loves teaching his students about his knowledge of music. He also enjoys being an inspiration to them, and having part in changing their lives.

When asked about his favorite part of working here so far, Mr. Sisley said, "My favorite part of working here is the student body. I feel welcomed by everyone I meet, and I enjoy my schedule." He thinks that the school pride, and the community are special at South Park. He also said, "I think there is a sense of pride here that you wouldn't get anywhere else."

He also enjoys watching sports, and he said that sports have always been an interest of his aside from music. He stated that if he hadn't become a music teacher, he would probably be a sports broadcaster.

We sure are glad that Mr. Sisley decided to pursue a career in music, and not sports, and to have him teaching us, and inspiring us here at South Park High School.



Movin' in with Marv

Addison Yochum

Many of you have noticed new faces at South Park High School. One of them is the new assistant principal, Mr. Marvin, who came from Bentworth High School.

Not many people like change, so that is why Mr. Marvin's plan this year is to observe, and get to know the students and the school. This can help with the transition from school to school. Marvin said, "My goal is to help students achieve their goals," since it is so hard to focus on goals when there is so much change happening around the school.

When he was asked about his past experience, he stated that he was a special education teacher, and then became the assistant principal of Ringgold High School. After 10 years, he became the principal of Bentworth High School. Now he is here at the high school, as the assistant principal.

Mr. Marvin's favorite part of being the assistant principal here is being able to build relationships with the students so that he can help them. One of his strengths is that he is able to relate to students well, which helps him be able to help them more. He can also interact and communicate well with the students and families. Another one of his strengths is being organized.

With there being no assistant principal here for half o the school year last year, Mr. Marvin is a great addition to South Park High School, and we are happy he is here.

Mr. Boles and some of the other history teachers have been trying their best to change up their lessons to try to make their subjects more interesting and students have felt more comfortable in those classes.



Schedule change craze

Megan Beam

I'm sure by this point you all have heard many different opinions on the schedule change for this school year. No matter what people think, there are pros and cons to everything in life.

One of the major changes for this year is no more homeroom and an earlier start time. Students are to be in school by 7:20, as that is when the doors lock, and they head straight to first period which starts at 7:23. In years past, clubs and meetings would happen during homeroom. Since students no longer have homeroom, clubs are forced to have meetings before school starts or after it ends. South Park junior, Savannah Booth, states "I can't participate in all my previous clubs because I don't have a homeroom." Interact club now begins at 7:15 and of the students surveyed, more than half of the students get here after the meeting starts. South Park teacher and Interact sponsor, Mrs. Surovchak states "Interact meetings starting before school is difficult since students have to come in early." She goes on to say, "Students have done a great job at trying to get here early, but often students are still coming in after the meeting starts." Even though this situation is not ideal, students are making the best of this new adjustment and doing what they can to get to meetings in a timely manner and to get into class on time.

Another very notable change is that there are now 11 periods in a day instead of nine. For most students, they have an 11th period study hall which has its own benefits and downfalls. Since most students have study halls at the same time, they can get help from teachers during 11th period if the teacher has a prep period or a study hall class. Also, we can have assemblies, pep rallies, tutoring opportunities, activity fairs, and more during 11th period without students having to miss class. However, that comes with a problem. Steel Center students leave during seventh period, so they miss out on opportunities that they would be able to get in years past. Over the summer, there was a petition going around as soon as the idea of a new schedule came out. Students were not happy with what they heard and started up the petition. The petition got the correct amount of signatures to get the petition noticed, however students can only do so much. However, some students do not have

an opinion one way or another. South Park junior, Dominic Sprouse, states, "I don't have a general opinion on the schedule change. I don't find it good or bad. I just go through my day and don't think about it." Even though you can't make everyone happy, some students have adjusted just fine.

Although this schedule isn't loved among students and teachers, there were reasons for why this change came about. South Park High School Principal, Mr. Dellarose administered the change to extend instructional time throughout the day. He eliminated the 3 minute switch time between homeroom and first period by taking away homeroom and going immediately into first period. Mr. Dellarose stated, "The purpose of the 11th period study hall was to assist students who had to leave for sports and activities." As he stated, 11th period study hall is for students in sports and activities. He has gotten positive feedback from parents and students because they don't have to miss class when they have to leave for their specific sport or activity. However, as stated before, Steel Center students are missing out on opportunities that take place during 11th period. Even though it is just a study hall period, a lot of things happen during that time that students don't want to miss.

Even though our schedule will not change back this year and who knows what will happen next year, we will make the best of what we can and get through the 2023-2024 school year together!

SPHS GSA CLUB

A safe space for
LGBTQIA+ and friends

INTERESTED?

See Mrs. Finberg (Library)

Email Mrs. Finberg

Check out our bulletin board for
resources & information

Interested in buying a yearbook?

Noah Fiscus

The 2023-2024 yearbook club, Aquila, is back and is doing many new unique things this year. Here is some important information that Aquila would like to share:

Senior photos should be submitted via email to Mr. Boles by October 6, 2023.

Purchase a yearbook and senior ads at yearbookforever.com or scan the QR code below.

The yearbook costs \$65.



Rejina Tamang (9), Cassidy Holmes (12), and Elisabeth Henrich (12) working on this year's issue off the yearbook.

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 2-6: Homecoming Spirit Week
- October 6: Homecoming game vs. Quaker Valley
- October 7: Homecoming Dance
- October 9: No School - Columbus Day
- October 13: Away Game @ Hopewell
- October 16-20: Interact selling keychains for breast cancer awareness
- October 20: Pink Out Game vs. McGuffey
- October 25, 26, 28, 29: Fall play - The Outsiders
- October 27: End of 9 weeks
- October 27: Senior Recognition Game vs. West Mifflin
- October 30: No School - Teacher clerical day
- October 31: Halloween

THE SPRESS STAFF

- Megan Beam
- Savannah Booth
- Khai Brown
- Alana Deily
- Erika Filous
- Noah Fiscus
- Jessa Harmer
- Callie Heynes
- Caelyn Robbins
- Addi Yochum

Stepping up to opportunity

Jessa Harmer & Erika Filous

Ninth grade students are noticing big changes from transitioning from middle school to high school. Something that is noticed the most is the freedom that students have in high school. Students feel that the high school gives more advantages with certain things that were strictly not allowed in the middle school. With that freedom, students like high school better.

A lot of ninth graders were noticing differences between middle school and high school. They noticed that many classes were different, way more class options, teachers are nicer, and classes blended in with different grades. Ainsley Roberts, a freshman, likes the high school better because, "It is more easy-going and more free." Another freshman student, Lajit Subedi, agrees that there is more freedom compared to middle school.

A number of students were asked if they would like to bring anything to the high school that the middle school had. Hayden Mirena, a freshman, said, "I would bring the blacktop to the high school because it was a fun place to hang out when we had free time." Other students, like Nika Contakos, said that she would bring nothing because she disliked middle school.

Students were also asked why they feel like there is more freedom at high school than middle school. All of the students all came back with similar answers. Nika, Ainsley, and Hayden all said that they liked the high school more because they get to be on their phone. Lajit stated that freedom in high school allows him to have his own opinion. Students also like the high school better because they have a wider variety of classes to choose from.

The consensus seems to be that ninth grade students seem to like high school better than middle school. Whether that be about more classes, being able to go on your phone, or more freedom and voice of opinion, students like high school more.



South Park High School
Environmental Club
Join the Google Classroom
2q7k37i
See Mrs. Russman or Mrs. Finberg

Interact will be selling
keychains to support
Breast Cancer Awareness
Month



\$1 each and will be sold
during lunches Oct.
16th-20th

October birthday corner

Gregory Smay - 1
Tommy Holmes - 2
Adam Vas - 2
MacKenzie Boehme - 2
Logan Brewer - 3
Flora Chen - 4
Quintin Napper - 4
Brianna Rickert - 5
Chayah McClelland - 7
Dre'Miere Barham-Love - 7
Gabrielle Schneider - 9
AJ D'Agostino - 10
Ryan Lavery - 10
Riley Burnett - 11
Logan Shields - 11
Luke Scarff - 11
Giana Shrubbs - 12
Abby Westland - 13
Jayden Mills - 15
Emma Keller - 16
Karolina Vodzak - 16
Nicole Camargo - 17
Bella Derenzo - 17

Larissa Mannheimer - 18
Daniel Battista - 21
Reese Katich - 21
Aidan Wallace - 21
Brendan Stearns - 22
Sophia Hale - 24
Ainsley Roberts - 24
Kevin Duffy - 25
Stephanie Vamosy - 25
Logan Augustine - 26
Zoey Kovacs - 26
Ava Grisetti - 27
Cassidy Holmes - 27
Caden Kelly - 27
Tess Lettie - 27
Benny Mejalli - 28
Sarah Mejalli - 28
Deepan Rasaili - 28
Ian Jackson - 28
Reagan Love - 28
Hayley Bennett - 29
Cole Hammock - 30
Rocco Stock - 30

Interact
help people in your community

Meetings on
Wednesdays @7:15AM
in the Cafeteria

Come to a meeting or stop by
Mr. Surovchak (204) or Mrs.
Surovchak's (115) room to sign up

ACADEMIC
Google Classroom Code:
mbwg5o2

GAMES
Meetings on Wednesdays after school!