

August 2017

Dear Sophomore Parents,

Welcome back to your child's second year as a Hilltopper! This is the glory year: no longer a freshman and not a junior yet. ENJOY it!

We want to make you aware of key events and milestones that take place during the year. Your class liaisons are listed below and they will keep you abreast of class functions and act as liaisons between you and the PTO. We also want to introduce a 5th class parent this year, Maria J. Orgeira-Osorio, the Hispanic Parent Ambassador:

Megan Gaeta (megangaeta5@gmail.com) – Thanks to being hacked I have a new email, but the rest remains the same...Mom of 5 girls. A senior and sophomore at SHS, a middle schooler, and 2 in elementary school. Areas of expertise include talking to several people at the same time, being the head of my own drama department and interpreting exaggerated eye rolls.

Danielle Maloney (wdmaloney@aol.com) - Celebrating that I am down to one school. Elizabeth, my third and youngest child, is a sophomore this year. I also have a senior at SHS and a junior in college.

Carolyn McGhee (cmcghee@comcast.net) - I have sophomore boy/girl twins and that's it. Three years from now I'll either be sobbing, cheering or both!

Maria J. Orgeira-Osorio (mjorgeira@comcast.net), *Hispanic Parent Ambassador*, I have two boys, a sophomore at SHS and a 6th grader at LCJSMS.

Lori White (thewhitefamily6@yahoo.com) - With Patrick being my youngest of four, this will be my eighth year as a parent at SHS! Having four very different children, 2 girls and 2 boys, I've seen a lot (mostly good!) and look forward to a super sophomore year!

Please mark your calendar with the following dates events: **(PTO-sponsored events are in bold)**

- **Tuesday, September 12, 2017– Chrome Book Distribution** - All students will be receiving Chrome Books. They will be handed out during the Physical Education (PE) periods for everyone who has turned in their fee for insurance. The insurance fee is collected each year.
- **Friday, September 22, 2017– PTO General Meeting (8:15am, Library)**: Make sure to take note of the new time and location – 8:15 and Library.
- Thursday, September 28, 2017 – Back to School Night (6pm-9pm) – Great time to meet your student's teachers. Will be able to navigate the building as easy as a 10th grader?
- Tuesday, October 3, 2017 - Share the Keys (7pm-9pm, Auditorium) - At this evening meeting, driver's safety is discussed. If your student is interested in having a parking space as a senior, a student AND parent have to attend this meeting. There will be another opportunity as a junior but if you are free this year you may want to check it off of your list.
- **Wednesday, October 11, 2017 - PSAT** - All sophomores take the PSAT test during school class time. This is the first time the students will see the test and it will help them see what the process is like before taking the real thing as juniors. No need to freak out, prep or prepare!
- **Thursday, October 19, 2017 – PTO Coffee with the Principal (8:15am, Library)** - Great opportunity to ask Mrs. Grimaldi questions and determine what is "Fact vs Fiction".
- **Thursday, October 26, 2017 – PTO Book Club Discussion (7pm-8:30pm, Library)** – "Mrs Fletcher" by Tom Perrotta.
- **Monday, November 13, 2017 – Ron Lieber/Speaker (7pm-9pm, Cafeteria)** – Author of "The Opposite of Spoiled: Raising Kids Who Are Grounded, Generous, and Smart About Money". 2015 NYT and WSJ best seller list. (For sophomores and juniors there will be a session from 1:45pm-2:45pm in the cafeteria)

- Tuesday, November 21, 2017 – Hallapalooza - A SHS tradition where the students volunteer to decorate an assigned hall way at SHS over a week's period. It's a great opportunity to drum-up school spirit. The students have a blast and snacks and drinks served. Takes place after school and in the evenings. All seniors are welcome and encouraged to participate!
- **Friday, January 12, 2018 – PTO General Meeting (8:15am, Library)**
- **Saturday, January 20, 2018 – SHS Parent Social/Fundraiser** - A fun evening ("Dueling Pianos") for all SHS parents at the Summit Grand Hotel starting at 7:00 pm - ticket info to come later in the year.
- Saturday, January 26, 2018 - Semi-Formal Dance (7pm-11pm) - Held at Mayfair Farms, West Orange. Tradition has been that the girls ask the boys as their date. Groups, individuals and non-dates are all encouraged and welcome to attend!
- **Thursday, February 22, 2018 – PTO Coffee with the Principal (7pm, Library)**
- **Wednesday, February 28, 2018 – PTO Book Club Discussion (12:30pm-2:00pm, Library)** – book TBD
- **Tuesday, March 6, 2018 - Freshmen/Sophomore Family Night (7pm-9pm)**
- **Friday, March 16, 2018 – PTO General Meeting (8:15am, Library)**
- Thursday, March 22, 2018 – Freshman/Sophomore College Orientation Night (7pm-9pm) - An initial college process meeting with guidance counselors.
- **Tuesday, April 24, 2018 – Sophomore Class Get Together** - location and exact time TBD. A relaxing format to get acquainted with one another, chat, get excited for upcoming events and ask questions. Mrs. Grimaldi will attend part of this social event.
- **Wednesday, May 16, 2018 – PTO Book Club Discussion (7pm-8:30pm, Library)** – book TBD
- **Friday, May 18, 2018 – PTO General Meeting (8:15am, Library)**
- Summer Assignments - All summer assignments can be found on the school's website www.summit.k12.nj.us. Click on department, academics and then go to the specific department to make sure your child has completed them.
- Driver's Education - Buckle your seat belts, the students take driver's Ed this year in Health. At the end of the course, the NJ State written test is administered. Make sure to SAVE the card they received after passing the test. It will be needed to receive a driver's permit.
- Financial Literacy - A state, required-for-graduation course that teaches how to maintain bank accounts, use a checkbook, pay bills, etc. This course is offered as an in-school elective or as an online course over the summer. PLEASE make sure your student discusses this course with their guidance counselor during spring 2018 scheduling to either add it to their schedule for Junior year or sign up for the summer, online course.

We look forward to another great year at SHS and to seeing you at event and happenings related to SHS. We also encourage you to utilize the PTO website (summitshspto.com) for information and links to the district website (summit.k12.nj.us). Your PTO presidents this year are Anjali McCormick (anjalinccormick@verizon.net) and Susan Sidebottom (susan@sidebottomfamily.com).

Cheers and Go Hilltoppers!

P.S. The PTO has added a time-saving innovation this year to aid with parents' calendar management. [Click here](#) to access the new subscribe feature that will allow you to automatically populate your online calendars with the important dates highlighted above!