

December 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Shortly after returning from the holiday break, students will meet with their school counselors to plan for 2012-2013 school-year. One of the most important tools students will receive is an updated curriculum guide. This publication is designed to provide students and parents with detailed information for academic planning. Along with course descriptions and guidelines, this booklet also contains important dates and deadlines. As you work with your child to plan for the coming school year, please do not hesitate to inquire about any aspect of the academic program. In addition to school counselors and administrators, our faculty members are also able to provide assistance with academic planning. In the areas of mathematics, English, social studies, science, and foreign language, instructors can help students to appropriately choose the next course of study. Instructors in the elective areas are able to provide detailed information about each of the courses offered. If you are unsure about whom to contact, I suggest you begin with your child's counselor. This individual will then be able to put you in contact with the appropriate staff member. It is important to remember that revisions to your child's schedule can be made throughout the spring months. Furthermore, counselors also review students' academic progress at the close of the school year.

As families prepare for the college admissions process, there are several upcoming sessions that should prove especially helpful. On Thursday, January 5, our Counseling Office, in cooperation with Siena College will host a workshop on the college application process and financial aid. On Wednesday, February 8 and Wednesday, March 7, financial aid counselors from HVCC will be available to assist students and parents with completion of FAFSA forms. Pre-registration is required for these sessions. Please contact the high school's Counseling Office for additional information.

Last spring, New York State cancelled the January 2012 administration of the Regents exams. This fall, as a result of private funding, the January exams were reinstated. Colonie Central High School will run a modified

schedule during the week of January 23-27. Monday, January 23 will remain a regular instructional day. This is also the last day of the first semester. Tuesday, January 24 through Thursday, January 26 are now designated as examination days. Regular classes will not be conducted. Only students scheduled for exams should attend school on these days. Friday, January 27 is a regular school day, and the first day of second semester courses. Some students will be released from classes that day in order to take the Global History and Geography Regents and the Writing RCT. The examination schedule and bus schedules will be mailed in January. This information will also be available on the district's website, www.southcolonieschools.org

During the holiday season, many students receive new cell phones, iPods, and other personal electronic devices. Please remind your child of the importance of safely securing these expensive items. Unfortunately, many students think nothing of leaving valuable belongings unattended. In addition, electronic devices should never be used during the school day. These items must be turned off and stored out of sight. If you have any questions, please contact your child's grade level principal for clarification or additional information.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

David E. Wetzel
Principal