

November 15, 2007

▶ Volume I, Issue III

The Mariner Update



Message from the Principal

As the season continues to change, Quarter 1 has come to a close.

Our first quarter was marked with many school community successes both in and outside of the classroom. Mariner athletes enjoyed seasons of victory and progress and many students have shown continued growth throughout the weeks. Our seniors are starting to hear news about their acceptance to colleges and the application process for scholarships is well underway.

Parent-teacher conferences are among us and we are offered a formal window to make certain we are communicating with one another as we work collaboratively for the benefit of our students. Please take this opportunity to ask your teacher about things that can be done to improve your child's performance and/or continue to stretch his/her potential. I also invite you to stop in and see me if you have any concerns and would otherwise like to touch base.

I have had the opportunity to talk with several of you both formally and informally. The insights that I gain through our discussions benefit our school community as a whole.

On a side note, I want to take this opportunity to continue my promotion of involvement from our students at SFHS outside of the school day. With quarter two beginning, this is a natural time of transition for students interested in getting involved in new ways! In addition to being a school that many educators believe is ideal in size, we are a school that has many offerings for our students. Aside from a plethora of athletic opportunities, our students can participate in a number of other activities such as Writing Club, Drama, Art Club, Outdoor Science Club, Senior Advisory Council, National Honor Society, etc. Participation in these events has not only proven to increase positive interest in the school as a community, it often serves as a stress release and motivator for improved performance in the classroom. If your child is not involved, please consider encouraging them to get involved and if you feel that our many offerings do not meet the needs of your child, please contact me and share any ideas that you may have.

Soon enough, we will be half-way done with the second quarter and only a few weeks away from the close of Semester I and exams. If

your child did not begin on the foot you would have liked this first quarter, continue to encourage them and insist they seek additional help from their instructors before and/or after school. If this approach isn't working, do not hesitate to contact their teachers directly or set-up a meeting with our Guidance Counselor, Dean of Students or myself. Your child's success is our priority and this new quarter affords new opportunities for success!

If your child is off to the start you wished for, continue to promote their positive habits and look for additional growth opportunities for them.

Have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

Mark

Inside this issue:

SFHS Booster Club	2
Music Department	2
Yearbook Pics (repeat)	3
Mariner Artists	3
Student Organization	3
Respect...	4
OPTIONS!	4

SFSD Awarded 'Perfect Perkins Performance'

The Mariner School Community is proud to share with you that the St. Francis School District is among 131 school districts in the state that received "Perfect Perkins Performance" awards during a September workshop in Wisconsin Dells. The award recognizes career and technical education programs for meeting national indicators of program participation and student achievement as part of the federal Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education program.

"The career and technical education programs in Wisconsin schools are some of the best in the nation," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "Educators for career

and technical education programs embrace our New Wisconsin Promise to help students become active citizens who understand their role in the family, society, and the world of work."

St. Francis School District received a certificate for having career and technical education participants who enroll in and complete programs representing non-traditional occupations; successfully complete academic coursework toward district graduation requirements and successfully complete either a work-based learning program or tech prep coursework; graduate from high school at a rate equal to or higher than students who were

not career and technical education participants; and engage in positive outcomes after graduation such as pursuing postsecondary education, joining the military, or entering the workforce.

"We should commend the schools receiving the 'Perfect Perkins Performance' awards," Burmaster said. "They reflect quality career and technical education programming and instruction that helps students succeed and graduate prepared for the workforce and further education."

News Highlights

- Perfect Perkins Performance'
- Messages from "The Arts"
- OPTIONS



St. Francis High School

SFHS BOOSTER CLUB

Website: www.sfhsmariners.org/Organizations/Booster_Club/booster.htm
Email: sfhsboosterclub@aol.com

The St. Francis High School Booster Club works to support our students both in and out of the classroom. This dedicated group of parents work diligently throughout the school year to provide a number of services and resources for our Mariners. In addition, they sponsor the following events:

Homecoming Parade, Homecoming Tailgate Party, Candysack, Athletic Banquet, Scholarships for Graduating Seniors, Community Center Bingo, Financial Support for Clubs and the reception following the Senior Awards Ceremony.

They meet the 3rd Monday of each month and membership is free.

If you are interested in becoming involved in this supportive organization, please email sfhsboosterclub@aol.com or call a SFHS Booster Club Board Member directly.

[Sherry Urbaniak (President): (414) 254-8824, Tammy Kukla (Vice President): (414) 383-2007, Mike Urbaniak (Treasurer): (414) 282-9035, or Sue Drews (Secretary): (414) 769-1118.

4225 S. Lake Drive
St. Francis, WI 53235

Main Office: (414) 747-3600
Attendance Office: (414) 747-3602
Guidance Office: (414) 747-3606

"Charting A Course Of Excellence"

Visit us on the web!
www.sfhsmariners.org



THE NEXT BOOSTER CLUB MEETING IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 2007...HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

SFHS Music Department Announces...

The St. Francis Music Department has some exciting announcements for the 2007-2008 school year! We have a full line-up of performances, including: pep band, caroling around the community, our winter concert, and WSMA Solo and Ensemble. Our next concert is on December 20th at 7:00 P.M. in the Thomas Moore High School Auditorium. The performance will be decorated with plants from our Music Boosters Poinsettia Sale. Orders can be placed up until November 16th, and you may pick up your beautiful flowers immediately following our concert. Contact us at 747-3677 for more details!

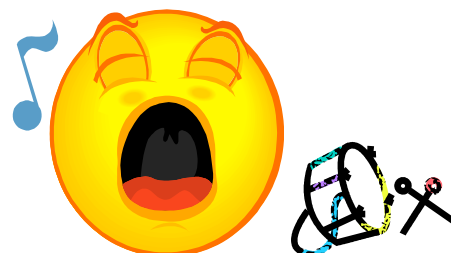
There are also some new groups you may be interested in learning about. First, we have added a women's

chamber choir to the school-day line-up. Secondly, we have started a drum line of 8 talented percussionists. These kids work hard to come up with fun drum routines, so be sure to look for them at our pep band performances! Finally, we are trying to start a district-wide Music Boosters organization. This is a great place for you to help support SF music. We are planning a SFMB social event for January, so stay tuned for more information!

Finally, do you know what March 1st is? That's right....WSMA SOLO AND ENSEMBLE! This is the biggest musical event of the year, and it is being held right here at St. Francis High School. Because this is such a huge event, we are in desperate need of

volunteers. We will have students and directors from various school districts, along with adjudicators from all around the state, participating in this music festival.

With your help, we will be able to host a spectacular event that our district can be proud of! **Thanks in advance for your help and support.** We couldn't do it without you!



Get Your Pictures in the Yearbook! (Important Repeat Article—More Participation Needed!)

The Yearbook Staff invites students and parents to submit photos for the yearbook. If you've got great photos of school and community events, or pictures with you and your friends just having fun, we'd like to see them. Our photographers can't be everywhere! Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will be proud to own.

If you have any questions or problems with the following process, please contact Ms. Mastaglio at 414.747.3674.

Please follow these steps to submit photos online:

- 1) **Log on to: images.jostens.com**
- 2) **Enter Login ID: 1135395**
- 3) **Enter Your Password: mariners**
- 4) **Browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload.**
- 5) **Enter information about the photo and provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information.**
- 6) **Click "Save Details".**

It's that easy! Submit your photos today! The last day to submit photos is 1/15/2008.

Note: The Yearbook Staff will review all photos and determine final yearbook content. We cannot guarantee that all submissions can be used in the book.



Share your pictures @ images.jostens.com

Mariner Artists look to expand visibility into the community!

The Art Department has been very busy this fall. We've expanded our drawing skills while observing various still life arrangements and a real skeleton. Currently, we are expanding into the 3D realm with richly textured clay vessels and wildly creative paper mache' creatures. We look forward to displaying these pieces in both the library and the display cases located around the building.

The St. Francis High School Art Club is

excited to branch out of the classroom and into the community with our artwork and creative efforts. Our goal is to expand our visibility beyond the hallways of our high school. To help us achieve this goal, **we are seeking possible project ideas and input from parents, guardians, and community members!** Please email Mrs. Henkhaus (SFHS Art Instructor) at shenkha@stfrancisschools.org with your ideas. Additionally, the art room could use donations of plastic or glass contain-

"The arts humanize the curriculum while affirming the interconnectedness of all forms of knowing. They are a powerful means to improve general education." -Charles Fowler-

ers with lids, fabric, yarn, mirrors, and artificial flowers. Please drop off the donations in the office.

Let's get organized! (working together for lifelong success)

John has a quiz tomorrow, but he can't find his notes. He thought they were in his backpack. If he doesn't find them, he'll probably get a bad grade.

It doesn't have to be this way. With a little effort, all students can be organized. Keeping things together gives them more time to focus on homework, family, hobbies, etc.

PLAN OF ATTACK

Discuss the upcoming month with your high schooler. What assignments are due? When will he/she do the homework, chores and extracurricular activities? Have him/her write everything

down on a monthly calendar. The more advance notice he/she gives him/herself, the better prepared he/she will be.

TOOLS ON HAND

Suggest that you teen keep a different colored notebook and folder for each subject. He can use notebooks for taking class notes and folders for storing returned homework and assignments. Also, have study supplies at home (dictionary, paper, pens, pencils, highlighters and calculator). When it's time for homework, your high schooler will have everything he/she needs.

NIGHTLY ROUTINE

Does your teen have trouble remembering what to take to school each day? Try having him/her put everything in one spot the night before. Or, he can make a list (homework, clean gym clothes, etc.) to check before leaving for school. Preparing the night before will make morning go more smoothly.

(RE-Aspen / 1096)



Respect for others begins with self-respect...

You may have heard the expression, "charity begins at home." It means that before you can help others, you need to take care of your own family.

A similar concept applies to respect. Make clear to your team that respecting others begins with respecting herself. What are the qualities of a teen with self-respect?

***She accepts herself.** She realizes that she should always try her best, yet she knows that no one is perfect.

***She values herself.** She takes care of her body, giving it enough food, ex-

ercise and sleep. She doesn't harm it with alcohol or drugs.

***She sees a future for herself.** Keeping her goals in mind helps her say no when faced with a difficult situation.

How does self-respect help your teen respect others?

***She understands.** Since she accepts herself, she realizes that others deserve to be accepted. She expresses happiness when things go right for others, and sympathy when things go wrong.

***She demonstrates that she believes others are important.** Since she values herself, she realizes that the lives of others have value as well. She encourages others to care for themselves.

***She appreciates the hard work that others have done!**

(B.L.—What do you stand for? - Building Character)

OPTIONS!

At the beginning of the year, when the Guidance Counselor, Dean of Students and Principal spoke with all of the students, we discussed "OPTIONS". An example was given to the students about a situation they might face in everyday life and they were asked a simple question, would you rather be in that situation with the OPTION to make more than one choice or would rather not have OPTIONS and have the choice made for you? Not one student said they would not want OPTIONS! Of course not, who in their right mind wouldn't want options. This discussion was part of a challenge that was made to our students as it relates to their post-secondary future. Many of them believe that they know what they are going to do. Some of them believe they will work for the police department, some plan to be lawyers, some are considering enlisting in the military and

others are very gifted with their hands and have aspirations of entering into the carpentry field. Regardless, our hope is that all of our students work hard in all of their classes and make the concerted effort to make sure they have OPTIONS when they leave our Mariner community. We never know what we will do and as adults, we know how quickly our paths can change. So with that, the most responsible thing we can do is encourage our students / your children to set themselves up so that when they walk across the stage in the June of their senior year...they have the OPTIONS to make a choice. Whether it be that they ultimately choose a four-year university, the military, an apprenticeship or the like, they should have done what it takes in high school to have the OPTION!

"We want ALL students to set themselves up for success in the future by making a commitment now, in high school, so they have OPTIONS when they leave!"

Important dates and times to remember...

Parent/Teacher Conferences / November 15th & 16th, 2007

PLAN (ACT) Test / December 6, 2007

NO SCHOOL / November 22nd & 23rd, 2007

Winter Concert / December 20, 2007

Girls Basketball Tournament / November 23 & 24, 2007

Winter "Charities" Student Assembly / December 21, 2007

School Board Meeting / November 26, 2007 @ 6:30pm (HS Library)

Winter Break / December 24, 2007 — January 1, 2008

Staff In-service (11:00am dismissal) / December 5, 2007

Attn: Music Students / Solo and Ensemble is **March 1, 2007** @ SFHS.



MORE IMPORTANT DATES TO COME IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THE MARINER UPDATE"