

The Mariner Update

Welcome Back! (Message from the Principal)



This is an exciting time for our Mariner Community!

We are almost a month into the school year and the threads that bind us are growing stronger. Our Freshman are walking down the hallways with more confidence, our Sophomores have shown impressive maturation and are now gearing up for the WKCE test, our Juniors have begun to realize their role as upperclassmen and our Seniors are beginning to celebrate and take hold of their position as student leaders.

With fall upon us, I hope that all of you are feeling refreshed and excited for the coming seasons and opportunities that a new school year brings to us all.

Before I move on to a couple of other things, let me take this time to again thank all of the parents, staff and community volunteers that have so graciously offered up their time and talents to assist with the registration process and successful start to another school year in Mariner Country.

I would like to take this opportunity to also highlight some new realities that should strengthen our efforts

to support our students in their course of excellence. The first of these is the fact that we enter the 2008-2009 school year with an additional full-time guidance counselor. Although the advantages of this are communicated in one of the articles, I want everyone to know how wonderful this opportunity is and thank the district administration and school board for their support in providing this added service to our students and their families. In addition, I would like to express how excited I am about the launch of our new website in the next month. This service, which will become available to you sooner than later, offers a new and improved instrument to access many resources for you and your child, as well as provide an improved venue to highlight the many wonderful things that make our Mariner Community so outstanding. I also want to note that in this issue, there is information relative to the referendum that our School Board is seeking in November. The prospect of this opportunity is exciting for all of us and I hope you take the opportunity to become a well-informed decision maker.

With this new school year we also have a number of new caring, dedicated, creative and energetic staff that we welcome to our already excellent foundation of professionals.

Brandon Blahnik/Social Studies

Emily Kingsley/Special Education

Paul Oestrich/Music Director

Jill Savick/Guidance Counselor (A-L)]

Shannon Turinski/Guidance Counselor (M-Z)

I hope that you find the Mariner Update to be a beneficial tool throughout the year. These updates, will be provided for you twice per quarter.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming events! If you have any questions or comments, I encourage you to contact me directly at (414) 747-3610. My door is always open!

Sincerely,

Mark

Mark DiStefano

(Principal—St. Francis High School)

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••••• HOMECOMING 2008

The 2008 Mariner Homecoming is only a few days away. We ask that parents encourage their children to participate actively in the events that surround this exciting time.

Throughout the "Homecoming Week", the school will be participating in activities that promote school spirit, community involvement, and fun! Such events include days of dress, class competitions and an all school assembly.

The Homecoming football game will take place on Friday, October 3, as our championship football team hosts

Brown Deer in a heated Woodland Conference showdown!

The Homecoming Parade will begin in front of Deer Creek @ 5:30pm (anyone interested in participating needs to be at Deer Creek by 5:00pm). Also, an ALL student tailgate party (FREE), sponsored by our Mariner Booster Club will precede the game at the football stadium, behind "The Shack".

During the game, announcements, appropriate recognition and special performances related to the Mariner Homecoming will take place.

Kickoff is at 7:00pm and ALL parents, students, alumni, St. Francis community members, etc. are encouraged to attend and show their support. GO MARINERS!

The Homecoming Dance will be held in the high school gymnasium on Saturday, October 4 from 7:30pm to 11:00pm, and all students are encouraged to participate in this fun and exciting opportunity to connect with their peers.

Any questions about the Parade or Tailgate should be directed to one of the Booster Club Officers (Please see BC information on p. 2).

St. Francis High School

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

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT (Jose Valdez)

In June of 2005, Jose Valdez graduated from St. Francis High School with the opportunity of a life time. After having worked hard in both the classroom and the football field as a Mariner, he accepted a full-ride scholarship to the University of Arkansas to play football. As a Razorback, Jose has demonstrated an outstanding work ethic and was recently recognized by the SEC (Southeastern Conference) for his commitment and service to the community.

Valdez named to SEC Community Service Team (Official Publication of the University of Arkansas)

Senior offensive tackle Jose Valdez has been selected to the Southeaster Conference Community Service Team.

The Senior from St. Francis, Wisc., has been a stand-out for the Razorbacks in the community. His efforts include visits to The Sunshine School for disabled children, reading to students at Holcomb Elementary School as part of the Read Across America program, participating in Arkansas' Book Hogs reading program, a visit to the Homestyle Assisted Living Center for Thanksgiving dinner and speaking to students at Oakdale Junior High School about decision making

and overcoming racial issues.

Jose is also one of five players from the SEC to be nominated for The Allstate AFCA Good Works Team. The team honors football student-athletes who exemplify community service. A committee will select an 11-member team that will be announced later this season.

Congratulations to Jose and his family!



SFHS BOOSTER CLUB

Website: www.sfhsmariners.org/Organizations/Booster_Club/booster.htm

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, Candyshack, Athletic Banquet, Scholarships for Graduating Seniors, Community Center Bingo, Financial Support for Clubs and the reception following the Senior Awards Ceremony.

They meet the 4th Monday of each month in the SFHS Teachers' Lounge.

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

[Sherry Urbaniak (President): (414) 282-9035 / email: theurbaniaks@wi.rr.com, Jeff Obst (Vice President): (414) 481-1791 / email: elammert@wi.rr.com, Dewey Drews (Treasurer): (414) 769-1118 / email: dsth671@sbcglobal.net, or Kim Schwantz (Secretary)].

Please support our Mariners and sign-up for a Pick & Save Advantage Plus Card at your nearest Pick & Save. Let them know at the customer service desk that it is for the SFHS Booster Club #760920.

REFERENDUM 2008

The St. Francis School Board is seeking a Basic Needs Referendum on November 4th for 14.9 million dollars. The cost to an individual with a home valued at \$100,000 is \$29 a year, for a home valued at \$150,000 the cost is \$44 per year, and for a house valued at \$200,000 the annual cost is \$58.

We have a number of critical facility needs including fixing the wood arches that support the high school roof, replacing energy inefficient exterior doors and windows, replacing out dated lights and electrical systems, improving our technology infrastructure and creating safe and secure entrances to all our schools. The project list was generated from the results of a community survey and the recommendations of a Facilities Study Committee comprised of St. Francis residents. Additional information including a complete project list and photographs can be found at <http://www.stfrancissd.org/Referendum/referendum.htm>.

Stay informed by attending informational meetings on the referendum, October 15, 2008 at 6:30 at the FIXX coffee house, and October 29, 2008 at 6:30 in the high school library.

Website and Email as an IMPORTANT Communication Tool!

One of the most important things that we can do together in supporting your child's education is to communicate openly and frequently. Although it is preferred by most of us to talk on the phone or face-to-face, because of the nature of our work and yours, one of the most effective ways for us to do so is often through email. Not only does this allow you as a parent to keep the messages that you send and/or receive from the school organized, it is often very convenient. With this, we would encourage you to feel free and email any teacher that your child may have or school official (Secretary, Guidance Counselor, Dean of Students, Principal, etc) if there

are questions, comments or insights you would like to share. In order to see a complete directory of email, visit...
www.sfhsmariners.org/SF_Staff/staff.html

Along these same lines, we will continue communicating by emailing daily announcements and important notices/updates to parents through a parent directory group. In order to be a part of that parent directory group, please sign up for this free and important service by going to our website (www.sfhsmariners.org), click on the JOIN OUR EMAIL link and fill in the necessary information. For only a few moments of time, you will receive a great deal of valuable information.

Finally, we would like you to know that in October, we will be launching our new website. Our hope is that this updated service provides you with easier access to information and resources in your efforts to work with us in supporting your child in their quest for excellence!



**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR
EMAIL COMMUNICATION!**

Wisconsin Careers Website (<http://wiscareers.wisc.edu>)

This site allows students to explore over 1000 occupations, and 3900 colleges and training programs. "Wiscareers" also gives access and information regarding 90,000 employers in the state of Wisconsin. By logging on to this site, students will be able to explore occupations, colleges and complete assessments to help them select a career in a field that they will be likely to succeed. On-line assessments for Career Interests, Work Values and Work Place skills can be completed to direct the student

to occupations that match their interests and skills. In addition to career planning, the site has a section to assist with ACT/SAT/GED Test Taking, Job Seeking Skills and Personal Budgeting.

The Registration Code for St. Francis High School is: sfh-c879. Login name: first letter of first name and first 6 letters of last name. Select a password that is at least 5 characters.

"...explore occupations, colleges and complete assessments to help them (students) select a career in a field that they will be likely to succeed."

If you have any questions or problems setting up the account, or if there are problems after you have established the account, please contact Ms. Flanagan at the high school or call (414) 747-3626 after 12:30pm.

SFHS Student Services (Guidance) Department receives a boost...

We are proud to say that we have added another full-time counselor to our Student Services (Guidance) Department. With this addition, we expand the services we provide our children and place greater emphasis on the transition for both incoming freshman and graduating seniors. Having two full-time counselors places us in a position to have a very competitive and capable student to counselor ratio. This year, in addition to meeting the day to day social and emotional needs of

our students, our counselors will have formal meetings with all of our students to discuss academics and grade specific planning. Furthermore, our Student Services Department will be hosting a number of events intended to provide families with the information they need to successfully support their child now and in the future (i.e. Financial Aid Night, Internet Safety, Future Planning, etc.). We encourage all of our Mariner Community members to take advantage of our additional services.

Student Services Staff Breakdown:

PHONE: 414.747.3606

Guidance Counselor [A-L] (Jill Savick)

Guidance Counselor [M-Z] (Shannon Turinski)

School Psychologist (Rebecca Ribar)

Social Worker (Erin Robers)

Student Services Secretary (Kathy Thompson)

**For more information and dates of upcoming events, please visit us on the web!*

Help your teen understand the balance between school and work...

Today's teens are faced with a lot of pressure, especially when it comes to managing their time. Most students balance schoolwork, extracurricular activities and chores with a part-time job. The key to doing this successfully is for your teen to remember that being a student is a full-time job. Before your teen takes a part-time job, ask:

***What does this job entail?** Will his job at the sporting goods store involve helping customers choose the right tennis rackets, or will he be stocking shelves in the back room? Make sure his idea of the job matches up with what he'll actually be doing.

***How will he get there?** Does he have a car? Will you drive him? Can he take public transportation?

***Why does he want to take the job?** Will it look good on a college resume or is he just looking for some extra cash? It's a good idea to "try out" jobs

in a field he may want to go into later in life.

***When will he be working?** Is it just after school or weekends, as well? Can he take extra time off during baseball season?

***Who will he be working with?** Have you spoken with management to see if it is reputable? Will he be working with some of his friends?

***Where is the job located?** Is it in a safe neighborhood? Is it close enough for him to walk to from school?

Source: "Balancing High School and Part-Time Work" / CollegeBoard.com

...being a student is a full-time job.

Do you find ways to spend time with your teen?

Teens pretend they want nothing to do with their parents. But they actually do want you around. It just takes creativity to find ways to spend time with them. Answer yes or no to see how you are doing.

____1. We have meals together whenever we can.

____2. I ask my teen for help around the house. It's more about the talking than about the work.

____3. I go to my teen's games, school activities and concerts.

____4. When my teen is watching TV, I sometimes sit down and watch the same show.

____5. I talk to my teen when we are in the car together.

How did you do? Each yes means you're sneaking in time with your teen. For no answers, try to those ideas from the quiz to spend time with your teen.

Source: www.parent-institute.com

Get Your Pictures in the Yearbook!

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: 1174284
- 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 2/01/2009.

Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the school year!

Sincerely,

Yearbook Adviser and the 2009 Yearbook Staff.

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

Important dates and times to remember...

Homecoming Parade / October 3, 2008 @ 5:30pm.

Homecoming Tailgate / October 3, 2008 (following the parade at SFHS)

Homecoming Football Game / October 3, 2008 @ 7:00pm

Homecoming Dance / October 4, 2008 @ 7:30pm.

School Board Meeting / October 6, 2008 @ 6:30pm (HS Library)

Student Picture Retake Day / October 7, 2008

HS Staff Inservice / October 8, 2008 (11:00am Student Dismissal)

PSAT / October 15, 2008

Referendum Informational Meeting / October 15, 2008 (6:30pm @ FIXX Coffee House)

School Board Meeting / October 20, 2008 @ 6:30pm (HS Library)

ACT Test / October 25, 2008

Referendum Informational Meeting / October 29, 2008 @ 6:30pm (SFHS Library)

Teacher's Convention / October 30 & 31, 2008 (NO SCHOOL)

School Board Meeting / November 3, 2008 @ 6:30pm (HS Library)

Quarter 1 Ends / November 5, 2008**

Prospective Family Night / November 19, 2008 [Look for more details in the next Mariner Update!]

WKCE Testing (Sophomores) / November 12 & 13, 2008

Parent/Teacher Conferences / November 13, 2008 from 5:30-8:30pm & November 14, 2008 from 8:00-11:00am.

PLAN (Pre-ACT Test) / December 3, 2008



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