

PHOENIX

SEPT. 11, 2009

The Voice of Schenectady High

SCH'DY, NY

School set to start 15 minutes sooner

*District changes school
hours a second year*



Time to set your clocks back. No, it's not Daylight Savings Time; it's the start of the new year at Schenectady High School.

School will begin 15 minutes earlier this year at 7:45 a.m. The school day will also end earlier, now at 2:50 p.m.

The change is being made after one year at the later start time of 8 a.m. to avoid problems with bus scheduling, school officials said.

Students in the middle schools and the Career Center at Steinmetz will also begin the school day 15 minutes earlier.

The school start time was changed last year from 7:35 a.m. to 8 a.m.

New football field, classrooms show up for first day of class

by OMA CECIL
Phoenix writer

There will be a lot of new changes to Schenectady High School this year. Some of them you can see, such as the new colorful football field and new wings, but some aren't so noticeable, such as the hope to boost student morale.

There are high hopes for this year with the construction of newer and more advanced facilities. An expansion on the high school with state-of-the-art classrooms is being built as well as new gym floors, a new football field and more parking area with a new bus loop. All these renovations are in hopes to make our school a better place for students and faculty alike. The construction is on schedule and has been going as planned.

New start times have also been implemented in ambitions of helping increase attendance and decrease tardiness. It will also



Photo courtesy of the Times Union

A new state-of-the-art football field is just one of the many changes that greeted the student body at the start of the new school year.

help those students who have part time jobs after school.

SHS Associate Superintendent Gary Comley said he hopes to achieve a lot this year. He wants to reduce the amount of discipline referrals, work with the community -- including the superintendent, teachers, parents, and students -- to build a better school, increase graduation rates and increase

See CHANGES, page 2

Tim-ber!
Many SHS trees
will have to go

Game on
Full Fall sports
calendar inside

Post-graduates
IB, summer school
bolster Class of '09

19 earn IB diploma

Nineteen Schenectady High graduates earned a second diploma over the summer as International Baccalaureate (IB) diplomas were announced.

Earning the IB diploma were Mercy Alila, Ben Boese, Sarah Bonacquist, Ethan Brooks-McDonald, Jinny Cheung, Alexandra Forst, Andy Hariraj, Aubree Heydrick, Corinne Higgins, Lincoln (Mac) Hull, Brian Janiszewski, Anushka Kalicharan, William Landis, Jennifer Nechamen, Loreto Pantano, Peter Shapiro, Anthony Staccone, Haley Van Bellingham and Alexandra Weisse.

The IB program is a two-year degree program that involves students taking advanced courses, submitting a portfolio of essays and oral presentations and completing 150 hours of work that reflects creativity, action and service.

Jansen wins scholarship

Trisha Jansen, a 2009 SHS graduate, was awarded the 2009 Patrolman Eric J. Veteramo Memorial Scholarship recently.

The award, named in honor of an officer who died in the line of duty in 2004, is awarded each year to a student who will be pursuing a career in criminal justice.

Jansen is headed to Daemen College to study natural science/forensics.

Football starts with win

The varsity football squad won its home opener 47-20 against rival Albany.

Look for highlights and scores of SHS sports action in the next issue of the *Phoenix*.

CHANGES

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school spirit and morale.

When asked about what he wished to avoid this year, Mr. Comley said, "I sincerely hope to avoid the tragic suicides that have occurred over the past few years. To do this will require continued communication between the school, students, parents and the community."

Summer school graduates 50

It may have taken them a little longer, but 50 students joined the graduating class of 2009 in commencement exercises Aug. 17, less than a week after successfully completing summer school and Regents exams.

The ceremony was held in front of nearly 200 guests in the Mont Pleasant Middle School auditorium.

Sal Capitummino, the summer school principal, opened the ceremonies relating how he was phoning students just days before that they would be graduating. During one call, he said, he could hear the student's mother in the background shouting "Alleluia Jesus."

Board of Education President Maxine



Brisport congratulated the students for reaching their goal and not giving up along the way.

"Your presence here today shows that you kept trying," she said. "This is a significant milestone. The payoff of getting a high school diploma will be great."

Fall Sports Calendar



Swimming

Girls Varsity

Wed., 9/9	at Amster-	4:30 pm
	erdam	
Fri., 9/11	at Albany	4:30 pm
	Academy	
Wed., 9/16	at Ravena	4:30 pm
Fri., 9/18	Troy	5 pm
Wed., 9/23	at Albany	4:30 pm
Fri., 10/2	Amsterdam	4:30 pm
Wed., 10/7	Albany Academy	4:30 pm
Fri., 10/9	at Troy	4:30 pm
Wed., 10/14	Albany	4:30 pm
Fri., 10/16	at Emma Willard	4:30 pm
Wed., 10/21	Ravena	4:30 pm
Tue., 10/27	Mohonasen/	
	Schalmont	4:30 pm
Fri., 10/30	Burnt Hills	4:30 pm
Sat., 10/31	at Last Chance Meet	TBA

Volleyball

Girls Varsity

Sat., 9/26	Schenectady Invy	TBA
Sat., 10/3	Cobleskill Tourney	TBA
Sat., 10/10	Shenendehowa	
	Tourney	TBA
Fri., 10/30	Prelims	4:30 pm
	<i>Girls V/JV</i>	
Tue., 9/1	Voorheesville	4:30 pm
Fri., 9/11	at Albany	4:30 pm

Tue., 9/15	Amsterdam	4:30 pm
Thu., 9/17	at Troy	4:30 pm
Tue., 9/22	at NDBG	4:30 pm
Fri., 9/25	Bishop Maginn	4:30 pm
Tue., 9/29	Catholic Central	4:30 pm
Tue., 10/6	Albany	4:30 pm
Wed., 10/7	at Shenendehowa	4:30 pm
Thu., 10/8	at Amsterda	4:30 pm
Wed., 10/14	Troy	4:30 pm
Fri., 10/16	NDBG	4:30 pm
Tue., 10/20	at Bishop Maginn	4:30 pm
Fri., 10/23	at Catholic Central	4:30 pm

Cheerleading

Coed Varsity

Fri., 9/4	Albany	7 pm
Fri., 9/11	at Shen	7 pm
Thu., 9/17	at Shaker	7 pm
Fri., 9/25	Bethlehem	7 pm
Fri., 10/2	Colonie	7 pm
Fri., 10/9	at Columbia	7 pm
Fri., 10/16	at LaSalle	7 pm

Coed Junior Varsity

Sat., 9/5	at Albany	10 am
Sat., 9/12	Shenendehowa	10 am
Thu., 9/17	Shaker	4:30 pm
Thu., 9/24	at Bethlehem	4:30 pm
Sat., 10/3	at Colonie	10 am
Sat., 10/10	Columbia	10 am
Sat., 10/17	LaSalle	10 am



‘Diseased’ trees set to come down

Twenty-three trees located on the Schenectady High campus have been identified by local arborists as potential safety hazards and therefore must be removed.

In mid-May, school officials contacted three local arborists to examine the trees on the high school property after two tree limbs fell and were embedded in the school roof following a wind storm. The tree, which was weakened from disease and fungus, had to be removed immediately.

Upon further examination, the arborists determined that many trees on the campus are half-rotten and diseased and therefore present a potential hazard.

Chuck Schmitt, Senior Resource Educator at Cornell University Cooperative Extension, agreed with the recommendation and said the trees should be removed in order to ensure the safety of the school staff, students and neighbors. The cost to remove the trees will run approximately \$13,000.

“We expect to have all the identified trees removed prior to the start of the school year,” said Superintendent Eric Ely. “We can’t wait until another tree falls. We have to take care of this now.”



Phoenix staff photo

Students and staff came back one Monday this spring to find one of the many tall trees on The Plaza fallen parallel to the building. Experts say 23 more diseased trees cause a potential hazard and need to be removed.

Mr. Ely said that once the trees are removed the district will plan a planting project which most likely will include replacing some

of the trees. “We’ll follow Mr. Schmitt’s recommendation and look at planting maples and oaks down the road.”

Like being the first to know something? The one people see to find out what’s happening?

The PHOENIX wants YOU!!

We are seeking writers, reviewers, columnists, photographers, cartoonists, editors and more to create Schenectady High’s award-winning student newspaper.

Want to learn more or sign up or get your first assignment? Come to our Introductory Meeting after school Wednesday, Sept. 16 in Room AB15.

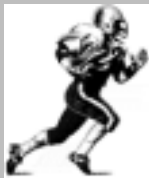
Fall Sports Calendar

Cross Country



Boys Varsity
 Sat., 10/10 at Manhattan Invy
 Wed., 10/28 at Big 10 Championships
 Sat., 10/31 at Troy Invy

Coed Varsity
 Sat., 9/5 at Fonda Invy 9 am
 Sat., 9/12 at Guilderland Invy 9 am
 Sat., 9/19 at Fort Plain Invy 9 am
 Tue., 9/22 at CCHS/LaSalle 4:30 pm
Tue., 9/29 Amsterdam/Troy 4:30 pm
Sat., 10/3 Grout Run 9 am
 Tue., 10/6 at NDBG/Maginn 4:30 pm
 Tue., 10/13 at Albany/CBA 4:30 pm
 Sat., 10/17 at Burnt Hills Invy 9 am
 Fri., 10/23 at Sch'dy County meet 3:30 pm



Football

Boys Varsity
 Sat., 8/29 at Amsterdam 10 am
Thu., 9/3 Night Practice 7 pm
 Fri., 9/4 Albany 7 pm
 Fri., 9/11 at Shenendehowa 7 pm
 Thu., 9/17 at Shaker 7 pm
Thu., 9/24 Night Practice 7 pm
Fri., 9/25 Bethlehem 7 pm
Thu., 10/1 Night Practice 7 pm
Fri., 10/2 Colonie 7 pm
 Fri., 10/9 at Columbia 7 pm
 Fri., 10/16 at LaSalle 7 pm

Junior Varsity
 Sat. 8/29 at Amsterdam 10 am
 Sat., 9/5 at Albany 10 am
Sat., 9/12 Shenendehowa 10 am
Thu., 9/17 Shaker 4:30 pm
 Thu., 9/24 at Bethlehem 4:30 pm
 Sat., 10/3 at Colonie 10 am
Sat., 10/10 Columbia 10 am
Sat., 10/17 LaSalle 10 am

Freshman
Wed., 9/9 Guilderland 4:30 pm
 Wed. 9/16 at Burnt Hills 4:30 pm
Wed., 9/23 Queensbury 4:30 pm
Wed., 9/30 Amsterdam 4:30 pm
 Wed., 10/7 at Niskayuna 4:30 pm
Wed., 10/14 Columbia 4:30 pm
 Tue., 10/27 at Bethlehem 4:30 pm
 Sat., 10/31 at Ballston Spa 10 am

Golf



Coed Varsity
 Mon, 8/31 at CBA 10 am
Tue., 9/1 Troy/CCHS 10 am
 Wed., 9/2 at Bishop Maginn 10 am
Tue., 9/8 NDBG 10 am
 Wed., 9/9 at Troy/CCHS 3:30 pm
 Thu., 9/10 at LaSalle 3:30 pm
Mon., 9/14 CBA 3:30 pm
 Wed., 9/16 at NDBG 3:30 pm
Thu., 9/17 Bishop Maginn 3:30 pm
 Mon, 9/21 at Big 10 Tournament 8 am
Tue., 9/22 LaSalle 3:30 pm
Thu., 9/24 Amsterdam 3:30 pm
 Wed., 9/30 at Amsterdam 3:30 pm

Soccer



Boys Varsity
Wed. 9/2 Scotia-Glenville 4 pm
Fri., 9/4 Niskayuna 10 am
Tue., 9/8 NDBG 4:30 pm
 Thu., 9/10 at Catholic Central 6:30 pm
Tue., 9/15 Amsterdam 4:30 pm
 Thu., 9/17 at CBA 4:30 pm
Tue., 9/22 Albany 4:30 pm
Thu., 9/24 LaSalle 4:30 pm
Tue., 9/29 Troy 4:30 pm
 Thu., 10/1 at NDBG 4:30 pm
Tue., 10/6 Catholic Central 4:30 pm
 Thu., 10/8 at Amsterdam 7 pm
Tue., 10/13 CBA 4:30 pm
 Thu., 10/15 at Albany 6:30 pm
 Tue., 10/20 at LaSalle 7 pm
 Thu., 10/22 at Troy 4:30 pm

Junior Varsity
Wed. 9/2 Scotia-Glenville 4 pm
Tue., 9/8 NDBG 4:30 pm
Thu., 9/10 at Catholic Central 4:30 pm
Tue., 9/15 Amsterdam 4:30 pm
 Thu., 9/17 at CBA 4:30 pm
Tue., 9/22 Albany 4:30 pm
Thu., 9/24 LaSalle 4:30 pm
Tue., 9/29 Troy 4:30 pm
 Thu., 10/1 at NDBG 4:30 pm
Tue., 10/6 Catholic Central 4:30 pm
 Thu., 10/8 at Amsterdam 4:30 pm
Tue., 10/13 CBA 4:30 pm
 Thu., 10/15 at Albany 4:30 pm
 Tue., 10/20 at LaSalle 4:30 pm
 Thu., 10/22 at Troy 4:30 pm

Thu., 8/27 at Rotterdam Scrimmage 3:30 pm
Mon., 8/31 Cobleskill 2 pm
 Wed., 9/2 at Gloversville 4:30 pm
Thu., 9/3 Johnstown 4:30 pm
 Tue., 9/8 at NDBG 4:30 pm
 Wed., 9/9 at Middleburgh Tournament TBA
Thu., 9/10 Catholic Central 6:30 pm
 Sat., 9/12 at Middleburgh Tournament TBA
 Tue., 9/15 at Amsterdam 4:30 pm
 Tue., 9/22 at Albany 4:30 pm
 Tue., 9/29 at Troy 4:30 pm
Thu., 10/1 NDBG 4:30 pm
 Tue., 10/6 at Catholic Central 4:30 pm
 Wed., 10/7 at Johnstown 4:30 pm
Thu., 10/8 Amsterdam 4:30 pm
Thu., 10/15 Albany 4:30 pm
Thu., 10/22 Troy 5:30 pm

Girls Junior Varsity
 Thu., 8/27 at Rotterdam Scrimmage 3:30 pm
Mon., 8/31 Cobleskill 2 pm
 Wed., 9/2 at Gloversville 4:30 pm
Thu., 9/3 Johnstown 4:30 pm
Thu., 9/10 Catholic Central 4:30 pm
 Fri., 9/11 at Berlin 4:45 pm
 Mon. 9/14 at Amsterdam 4:30 pm
Wed., 9/16 Emma Willard 4:30 pm
 Mon., 9/21 at Albany 4:30 pm
 Wed., 9/30 at Troy 4:30 pm
Thu., 10/1 Albany 4:30 pm
 Tue., 10/6 at Catholic Central 4:30 pm
 Wed., 10/7 at Johnstow 4:30 pm
Thu., 10/8 Amsterdam 4:30 pm
 Wed., 10/14 at Emma Willard 4:30 pm
Thu., 10/15 Albany 4:30 pm
Thu., 10/22 Troy 4:30 pm

Tennis



Girls Varsity
Tue., 10/1 Scotia 3 pm
Wed., 9/9 Troy 4 pm
Fri., 9/11 Bishop Maginn 4 pm
 Mon., 9/14 at Albany 4 pm
 Fri., 9/18 at Amsterdam 4 pm
 Mon., 9/21 at Troy 4 pm
 Wed., 9/23 at Bishop Maginn 4 pm
Fri., 9/25 Albany 4 pm
 Tue., 9/29 at Catholic Central 4 pm
Wed., 9/30 Amsterdam 4 pm
 Thu., 10/1 at Big 10 Tourney TBA