

Mane Events

SHOAL RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Notes from Mr. Jones

As we enter the last nine weeks of our first year at Shoal River Middle School, some things are winding down and some are picking up. FCAT is behind us and everyone – students, teachers, and parents – can now just concentrate on finishing the year strong. For many students, this is a time to buckle down and get their grades up for the year, while others think it's time to relax and coast. Please remind your child the importance of staying alert in class and keeping their grades up through the end. Many times, a student's success or failure hinges on the grades earned during this last grade period. With End Of Course exams for every class mandated by our district, all students must work hard through the last day to ensure the best grade possible. Another reason to keep working is that, in core classes, grades are one item used to determine placement for next school year.

The scores we have seen thus far in school-wide assessments look very good. This gives us a good feeling about our FCAT scores and our school grade, both of which we will learn after school is out for the summer. I am proud of the effort by our students and the excellent teaching by our faculty. In addition, our academic team placed 3rd in three different competitions this year. It is our intention to begin a legacy of outstanding academic excellence at Shoal River Middle School.

Another area of pride has been our extra-curricular programs. Most sports have had winning records and, so far, we have one championship as our girls basketball team won the conference tournament title. Our concert band and mixed chorus both earned all superiors at their district evaluations.

Overall, we have had a most successful year in our new school. And while there are still new building problems, such as room temperatures and leaks, these have been minor issues. We have a beautiful school with great students and an outstanding faculty, an unbeatable combination! Years from now, we can all be proud that we were in on the beginning of the best middle school in Florida!

CLASS-SIZE AMENDMENT

By now, everyone has heard about the Class-Size Amendment, but we want our parents and students to understand the impact it will have. The past three years, we have only had to have an average of no more than 22 students in our core classes. In the 2010-2011 school year, we will not be able to have more than 22 students in any one core class. We have approximately 150 core classes meeting every day. As the rules are now, we will be punished for each class that has more than 22 in it. This will make creating a master schedule very difficult. Students may not get the schedule they want and, once school starts, schedule changes will be difficult, if not impossible. Likewise, zoning waivers will be affected as schools may have to deny a request or revoke a zoning waiver in order to keep from going over the Class-Size limit. It is possible that a new student moving into a school's zone may result in a student who is there on a waiver having to return to their zoned school. The alternative is hiring a new teacher when the 23rd student moves in. This would probably result in some support staff such as secretaries, custodians, classroom assistants, media specialists, guidance counselors, or administrators having to be laid off to create the funds needed to hire a teacher. In other districts, they are looking at busing students to other schools in order to comply with this amendment without hiring more teachers. While we all want low teacher/student ratios, this amendment as it currently stands will have a huge financial impact on our schools and will change the way we have all done things. An amendment to this amendment will be on the ballot in the November election to keep the class-size at the current school average level. I urge everyone to research this carefully and vote as you see fit for our schools and your child.

SUMMER INTENSIVE STUDIES

Students who need to make up failed classes or who score Level 1 in reading or math on FCAT will need to come to the Summer Intensive Studies program to either make up the failure or get much needed remediation. Shoal River students will be able to attend SIS at our school and limited transportation will be provided. The dates are July 6-23, Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. More information on this will be made available to parents of students who qualify for the SIS program.

END OF COURSE EXAMS

In Okaloosa County, all secondary students must take an End of Course exam for every course. These exams are developed by our teachers and are the same for all students in our county schools. EOC exams are designed to be comprehensive for the entire year but only count 1/7 of the second semester grade. Please help us by reminding your child about the importance of the EOC exams they will be taking in June. As you may know, the state of Florida is moving to End of Course exams state-wide. At the high school level, EOC exams in math will soon replace the 10th grade FCAT for graduation and science will follow in a very few years. As we learn more on the status of EOC exams and their importance, we will keep you informed.

On April 24 the girls' track team will be hosting Annelise's Wild Mustang 5K Run/Walk and a Community Day at Shoal River Middle School from 9:00am – 1:00pm. If you are interested in participating in the run you may get an entry form from the school website or pick one up at the SRMS front office. You may also register the morning of the Run/Walk. local businesses and organizations will have displays and demonstrations. Hamburger, hotdogs, baked goods and other concessions will be sold. If you would like to assist in any way please contact Haley Caraway at carawayh@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us, Dale Chavers at chaversd@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us, or call the school at 689-7229.

The Track Teams and the 8th Grade Class are selling Fund Rays coupon books. The books are \$12.00 and can be purchased from any track team member, Mr. Chavers or Mrs. Caraway. The coupon books have a variety of coupons from surrounding restaurants from Destin to Crestview.

Mustang Band News



Congratulations go out to our Symphonic Band members for their Superior performance at the District One Florida Bandmasters' Association Music Performance Assessment on March 4, 2010 in Fort Walton Beach! The band members celebrated with an in-school cookout on Tuesday, March 23!

We are looking forward to our final concert on Thursday, May 20 in the SRMS Gym at 6:30pm. On Friday May 28, approximately 60 band members will be traveling to Wild Adventures Theme Park in Valdosta, GA where our Jazz Band will be performing.



Looking for an easy way to help SRMS? We need donations of boxes of tissues! Drop your donations off in the front office.

STARZ Dance Team clinic will be held May 17, 18, 19, 21 from 6pm-8pm. The cost for the clinic is \$20, which includes a CD of the tryout music and a tryout shirt.. Tryouts will be May 22 starting at 9am . Students must have an up to date physical and a notarized parent permission form to participate in the clinic and in the tryout. Contact Mrs. Manchester in attendance with questions.

The SRMS Cheerleading Clinic for the 2010-2011 SRMS cheerleading team will be held May 17-19 from 4-6pm. Tryouts will be held on Friday, May 21 at 4:00p.m. in the gym. To tryout you must have a current FHSAA physical, a notarized parent permission form, the teacher recommendation forms returned and pay the clinic fee. There will be a mandatory parent meeting on Tuesday, May 11 at 6:00pm in the SRMS cafeteria. Please email Haley Caraway at carawayh@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us if you have any questions.

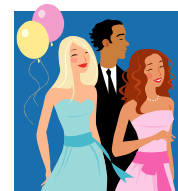


On the weekend of March 6 Davidson hosted their 2nd annual softball tournament. The tournament was set up as a round robin with the Davidson Panthers, Baker Gators, Walton Braves and Shoal River Mustangs playing. The day started with Shoal River coming from behind to defeat Baker 11-4. Then Davidson played next, easily defeating Walton 20-3.

The third game was played between Davidson and Baker, proving more of a battle for Davidson. However, they managed to pull off a close victory versus the lady Gators, beating them 4-2. In the fourth game of the day, Shoal River faced the Walton Braves, where the Braves defeated the lady Mustangs 16-12. The Baker/Walton game was cancelled due to player eligibility. The last game of the day between the Shoal River Mustangs and the Davidson Panthers would decide the tournament winner. The "by laws" of the tournament stated that the winner would be decided by the best record, then head to head competition if needed, and then a point system. Going into the final game, Davidson had the lead with a 2-0 record versus Shoal River's 1-1, so in order for Shoal River to win, they had to beat Davidson. The Lady Mustangs managed to defeat the Lady Panthers 8-0, moving their record to 2-1 with Davidson. Winning the head to head competition with their cross town rivals, the Mustangs were awarded the championship trophy, allowing them to bring it home to their trophy case. Congratulations Lady Mustangs!

The yearbook staff ordered a FEW extra yearbooks. The cost of books is still \$50.00. Online ordering is NO LONGER available. If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the yearbook for your student, send the payment to the school payable to SRMS Yearbook.

8th grade parents who would like to help with the 8th grade dance this year, please contact Ms. Buis at 689-7229 x2803 or at buisp@mail.okaloosa.k12.fl.us We need parents on the planning and decorating committees, and to be chaperones at the dance. The dance is scheduled for May 21.



SHOAL RIVER MIDDLE
SCHOOL

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fl.us/shoalriver**



HOME OF THE
MUSTANGS

IMPORTANT DATES

*Showcase of Excellence in the Gymnasium

(Future) 7th Grade April 13th 4:30 – 6:30

(Future) 6th Grade April 15th 4:30- 6:30

(Future) 8th Grade April 21st 4:30 – 6:30

*Book Fair in Media Center April 19- 23

*April 24th Anne's Wild Mustang Run 9am – 1pm

*May 5-7 8th grade trip to Disney

*May 13th Chorus Spring Concert

*May 20th Band Spring concert

*Dance Clinic May 17-19 & 21 6p.m.-8p.m, Try-outs May

*Cheer Clinic May 17-19, Try-outs May 21 4p.m.-6p.m.

*Dance Clinic May 17-19 & 21 6p.m.-8p.m, Try-outs May 22, 9a.m.

*May 25th Honor's Ceremony 6p.m.

Essay End of Course Exams

June 1st Electives

June 2nd L.Arts/Science

June 3rd Math/Soc. St.

June 4th Make-up Day

Media Center News

Our media center will be busy after we get back from Spring Break. The ice cream sundae party honoring students who read and passed the Accelerated Reader test on at least five of this year's Sunshine State Young Readers Award books will be held April 27. The cutoff to earn a spot at this party will be April 15. For a full list of SSYRA titles, check out <http://myssyra.org> or

<http://shoalrivermediacenter.okaloosaschools.wikispaces.net>

Our spring book fair is scheduled for the week of April 19. The fair will be open during school hours and that Tuesday night during the 8th grade Showcase of Excellence. If you are interested in volunteering at the book fair, please call Mrs. Ward or Mrs. Lawrence at 689-7236.

