



HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2020

"WE DEVELOP CONFIDENT, CONTINUAL LEARNERS WHO ARE CARING COMMUNITY MEMBERS."

A Message From the Principal

We've just come off of the Thanksgiving Holiday and I've been reflecting on what I'm thankful for. This year I am most thankful for the fact that our students, staff, and families have been doing the right thing to help us maintain in-person learning for as long as we have. Our families are keeping their students home if the students aren't feeling well. Many families allow their students to participate in the required COVID Testing through Onondaga County. When students are in the building they are doing a terrific job with wearing a mask and maintaining proper distancing from one another. Our staff continually works hard to create both in-person lessons and remote lessons that keep students engaged. None of this is easy, but I am lucky enough to work with families, students, and staff who want to keep our students safe when we are in school. In this district, we use the phrase "What Makes Solvay Special?". The families, students, and staff make Solvay a special place!


Thank you and be well!
Dee Dee Hageman

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

December 5

 BEST Field Trip to Howell Caverns

December 21 – 7pm

 Board of Education Meeting at District Office

December 24 – January 3

 Holiday Recess
No School

SHS Celebrates Gratitude

During November, the Solvay High School faculty, staff, and students began to dive into the Positivity Project. During the month we focused on the character strength of **Gratitude**. During lunches, students were invited to write something they were grateful for in their lives. Each class was given their own window pane to decorate in the cafeteria. Ms. Moran's students wrote thank you notes to someone in the Solvay School District before Thanksgiving break. It really brightened not only the staff member's jumpstart to the holiday season, but made the students feel good, too!



"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." -JOHN F. KENNEDY



SHS BEST Program

The BEST program is currently offering the following activities to all high school students; boys and girls basketball, volleyball, and fitness center. Interested students should see Mr. Lasher for more information. Ms. Young will be offering a Tie Dye and Chocolate Chip cookie day on December 1st and 3rd. If you are interested, please stop by Ms. Young's Kitchen for a registration form. Historical Movie Monday continues with Ms. Monaghan every Monday from 2:45-5:00. See Ms. Monaghan if you are interested. Mrs. St. Laurent is now offering a Games Club with a wide range of activities both in-person and virtually. Students who are interested should stop by the library or send Mrs. St. Laurent an e-mail.

Athletic Department

Please be sure to check out Twitter @SolvayAthletics and our website for updates on the Winter sports season.

Remember to stay active and contact your coaches or Ms. Halloran with any questions you may have on workouts or prevention and care of injuries!

Guidance Corner

SENIORS should finalize their college applications before December 18. Counselors are available to further assist students and answer their questions in person, through email or by Google meet.

Please check the Counseling Office web page for a variety of information including colleges and STEM careers.

Practicing Kindness in December

During the month of December, SHS will be focusing on the character strength of **Kindness**. The faculty Positive Project Committee will be rolling out a series of activities to help our student recognize and practice kindness. One of our first activities will be:

Kindness Food and Hygiene Product Drive

Faculty, staff and students are being asked to bring in items to donate to the St. Marianne Cope Parish in Solvay.

We are asking for donations of non-perishable food items and unopened hygiene products. These donations will benefit the Solvay community.

Donations can be dropped off under one of the Holiday Trees at SHS.

Old Forge Field Trip



On November 14th, Ms. McGraw and Mr. took a group of art students to Old Forge to the View Art Center. They went on a tour of the facility and then looked at three different exhibits. They did a little shopping in the gift shop and had lunch in town before heading home. It was a really nice day and they are hoping to return in the late spring to participate in an outdoor rake firing with the local artists.

Student Recognition

Congratulations to Thalia Martinez Vazquez!

Thalia was accepted into and will be participating in the Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute that is held at OCM BOCES and is part of a NYSED program to develop leadership skills in Hispanic youth. She will be participating for the full year and she will have an opportunity to go to Albany in the Spring.



“Behind the Mask”



This month’s “Behind the Mask” spotlight is on Mr. Kesler.

What makes a ‘good day’ at school?

A good day for me actually starts the Saturday/Sunday before with the Gators & Cowboys winning because I can start each class with a few minutes of trash-talk. From there it’s the positive energy in the classroom/school. I like to be able to joke around and be productive at the same time. Taco in a bag for school lunch always helps as well!

If you could take the students on a field trip to anywhere in the world, where would you take them?

I’m not a big leave the country guy (my wife hates that). I’d probably gear it more towards my U.S. History classes. I’d say Boston, Gettysburg, Washington D.C. There’s so much American history in those cities. Plus Boston & D.C. are great sports towns!

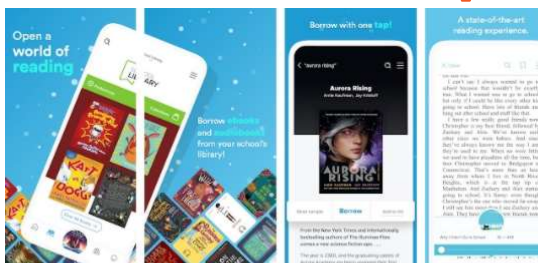
How do you think students will remember you and your class?

I know I’ll be remembered as “the Cowboys fan” because I’ve had many parents address me as such upon meeting them for the first time. On top of that it has always been important to me that the students know I’m more than a teacher. I could talk about sports, my pets, video games, tv/movies just as well as I could talk about history & economics. Hopefully my class will be remembered for all the fun we had getting off topic, but when it was time to learn and be productive we did that too.

How long would you survive a zombie apocalypse? Why?

I’ve watched enough of The Walking Dead to know I’m surviving the whole darn thing. That situation would call for leadership and making tough decisions even if they are unpopular, both of which I consider great strengths of mine. I’d get humanity back on its feet, and then of course rule it with an iron fist!

From the Library



Mobile Library

Did you know? With the Sora app, students can borrow ebooks and audiobooks right on their devices!

Just download the app, or navigate to ocmboces.lib.overdrive.com in your browser.

Use your Solvay Bearcats login to gain access to thousands of our most popular titles!

For help choosing a book, using the app or finding research resources, contact Mrs. St. Laurent at ktstlaurent@solvayschools.org.

Important Information

COVID Screenings

- 🐾 All students must complete their COVID screening on ParentSquare at home before arriving at school.
- 🐾 If you have not been screened **you must** enter through the main entrance.

Student Arrival Time

- 🐾 All students should be in their Period 1 classes no later than 7:30am to avoid being marked late for school.
- 🐾 Students with multiple lates to school may be subject to the SHS Code of Conduct.

Remote Learner Material Pick-up

- 🐾 Remote learning students should stop by SHS to pick-up materials from their teachers.

