

**SOPHOMORE NEWS**  
**FALL 2016**  
**Sponsored by**  
**The Guidance Department**  
**Somerset Berkley Regional High School**

**SOPHOMORE NEWS**, written for sophomores and their parents, is distributed three times a year. Students may pick up newsletters in the guidance office and take them home to share with their parents. The newsletter will also be available on the SBRHS website at [www.sbregional.org](http://www.sbregional.org) via the link to guidance newsletters. Since there are many upcoming events over the next three years which will impact a student's post-high school career choices, the guidance department hopes that these newsletters will serve to both inform and remind parents and students alike of important dates and events. Please save these newsletters for future reference.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT:** Beginning with the Class of 2014, students are required to complete 20 hours of community service over four years as a requirement for graduation from Somerset Berkley Regional High School. Please see the student handbook (Pages 113) for additional information.

**STUDENT HANDBOOK/AGENDA BOOK:** Again this year, each student received a very convenient and useful handbook that not only covers academic requirements and disciplinary regulations but also has the following features: a built-in 2016-17 calendar, a high school calendar of events (mid-quarter/quarter dates, holidays, early dismissals, etc.), an eight-day schedule with lunch schedules on the back cover, Hallway Passport, and a new, relevant section on Cyber Savvy. Parents should review this new handbook, and students should put it to good use.

**THE HOMEWORK CLUB** is a service of the school system that provides tutorial help for freshman, sophomore, and junior students in the content areas of math, English, science, and history. From 2:15 until 3:15, a classroom teacher is available in the Library Media Center to help students with homework and skill development. Students should listen to homeroom announcements or check the Homework Club schedule in the guidance office. Students do not need to pre-register for this program; they can simply report to the media center as a walk-in on an as-needed basis. The program will start on Monday September 19<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Homework Club Reminder....Beginning on September 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a late bus available for students who are interested in attending/needing to attend our homework club in the Library Media Center after school.

**NOTICE:** Students should be aware that the add/drop period ended on Monday, September 19, 2016. In keeping with our desire to promote a greater partnership between home and school, students are reminded that all requests for course changes must be signed by a parent or guardian. Level changes can be made until one week after the second Parent Teacher Conference (Thursday, October 27, 2016), but also require parental consent. Please see the student handbook (Pages 115-116) for more information.

**Grades** are available on-line using the GradeBook program. Parents should review the grade reports with their children and help them take appropriate measures for academic success. Parents who cannot access the GradeBook program should contact the guidance office. Students should take advantage of the Homework Club, seek extra help and bolster their study skills before the first quarter ends on Thursday, November 10, 2016.

**REPORT CARDS;** Report cards for the first quarter marking period, as well as future marking periods, will be mailed home to all parents/guardians.

**COURSE WITHDRAWAL POLICY:** Page 116 of the Student Handbook outlines the policy that was implemented fairly recently regarding the withdrawal of a student from a class after the deadline for course changes. Please note that in compliance with the new regulation the transcript will reflect the course withdrawal with the designation of **W**. No credits or quality points will be awarded.

**A NEW ELECTRONIC DEVICE POLICY** was implemented starting with the 2013-2014 school year. Refer to pages 91-94 of the Student Handbook for detailed information regarding this new policy.

**MCAS TESTING:** Current Massachusetts law requires that students in the Class of 2011 and beyond must pass MCAS testing in the area of language arts, math, and science in order to receive a diploma from a public high school in the state, even if the student has met or exceeded the requirements at the local level. Students who do not pass the test the first time will have multiple occasions during their junior and senior years to retest. Parents making long-range plans may want to consider the testing schedule for this year.

March 21	ELA Composition Sessions A and B
March 22	ELA Reading Comprehension (Sessions 1 and 2)
March 23	ELA Reading Comprehension (Session 3)
May 16	Mathematics (Session 1)
May 17	Mathematics (Session 2)
June 5	High School Science (Session 1)
June 6	High School Science (Session 2)

**YEARBOOK ORDERS:** Students who want to reserve a copy of this year's yearbook, The Raider, can place their order at [shop.jostsens.com](http://shop.jostsens.com) through February 2017 or through one of the yearbook advisors, Mrs. Gosson or Mrs. Hoyle. The cost will be \$ 78. Students can access information regarding purchasing a yearbook on the school webpage in the senior section. Students are strongly encouraged to purchase the yearbooks online; those who use the internet service must use a credit card for payment. Those who want to pay by check can place an order directly with Mrs. Gosson or Mrs. Hoyle at the high school with a check made payable to SBRHS Yearbook.

**THE PSAT/NMSQT** will be administered at Somerset Berkley Regional High School during the school day on Wednesday October 19, 2016. The PSAT's will be administered to all Juniors and Sophomores at no charge to the families. For more detail, please see your guidance counselor.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for three upcoming events. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for Wednesday October, 12 and Thursday, October 20, 2016. Further information for scheduling individual meetings will be forthcoming from the principal. The annual Somerset-Case College Night will be held at Somerset Berkley Regional High School in the Student Dining Center on Thursday October 5, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Currently, responses have been received from over 60 schools that will have representatives in attendance. Please note that not only will four-year and two-year schools be represented but also one and two year technical and vocational schools. College Night affords parents, as well as students, the opportunity to speak directly with college admission representatives concerning programs, costs, facilities, and financial aid at their institutions. It is never too early to begin the college search process. Also, parents who want an early start on gathering information about college financial aid should attend Financial Aid Night in the Somerset Berkley Regional High School Performing Arts Center at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Ms. Jan Combs of MEFA (Massachusetts Education Finance Authority) will conduct the workshop. She will provide an overview of the financial aid process as well as a detailed line-by-line analysis of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form (FAFSA) and the Financial Aid Profile form (required by many private schools).

**SOMERSET BERKLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT**

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