

PANTHERPRESS

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Important Dates

9/8 - 9/21 PSAT registration
 9/14 PTSO meeting
 9/17 Homecoming Parade
 9/19 Homecoming Dance
 9/21 FCBOE meeting
 10/5 PTSO meeting
 10/8 Orchestra concert
 10/12 - 10/13 Fall Break
 10/14 Picture retakes
 10/14 PSAT
 10/16 Report Cards

Communication

Infinite Campus Messenger will be the primary source for school news, so make sure to read the weekly emails sent from ic.messenger@mail.fcboe.org

The school website starrsmillhighschool.org has information about each academic department, sports and fine arts booster clubs, student and PTSO newsletters, and a current school calendar.

Social Media

Follow Starr's Mill on Twitter:
 @StarrsMillHS
 PTSO Facebook page:
 Starr's Mill High School PTSO



Letter from Leonard

Hello Fellow Panthers,

We have had a great start to the school year. Students are in class learning, our extra-curricular activities are going strong, and one of the highlights of the fall, Homecoming, is right around the corner. Life is never slow at Starr's Mill!!

Homecoming this year will be September 16-19 with the theme of **Disney!** We will start the week with the traditional decorating of the halls as each class tries to put up the most spirited decorations within the theme. We will then have three dress up days on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Two quick reminders about all dress up days; the dress code is still in effect





Media Center

The SMHS Media Center has been a busy place with ongoing freshman orientations and research classes. Students can access our GaleNet and GALILEO research databases and Destiny book catalog from home and any internet connected device. The SMHS Media Center page can be found from the school's homepage starrsmillhighschool.org and then by following the Student Resources and Media Center tabs.

The GaleNet password is **panther1**, and the GALILEO password is **matter**.

Please encourage your student to use these valid, scholarly sources for all their research needs. Also, ebooks can be accessed via the Destiny card catalog on the SMHS Media Center page. Students have been able to check out books since the first day of school. Please remind your student to check his/her fcboe.org email for emailed overdue notices.

Leigh Anne Hanie, Ed.S.
Media Specialist
Ex Libris Book Club Sponsor

and your dress cannot disrupt us continuing to have school. The parade will then be Thursday afternoon as we show the community our Panther Pride. Friday night the Panthers will take on Forest Park in Panther Stadium and we will crown our Homecoming King and Queen during halftime of the game. The Homecoming dance will conclude homecoming week on Saturday night in the school gym. More details on all of these events will be forth coming on the morning announcements, our website, Twitter, and on the school walls.

In addition to all of this fun we have many other activities, sports, and fine arts going on at Starr's Mill. We appreciate all of the support we get from our students, teachers, parents, and the community. Please come out to support the Panthers in all we do. At this point in the year your student's academic picture should be coming into focus. If you see your student struggling or have questions, please reach out to your student's teachers and guidance counselor so we can make sure they are on the right track. It's much easier for a struggling student to get back on track early in the semester than later.

There is an abundance of information in this newsletter so please spend some time reading it carefully. I know parents have a lot of information coming at them from a multitude of directions. The PTSO newsletter is a great place to find timely Starr's Mill High School information in one place. Our PTSO does a fantastic job supporting the school, our students, and our teachers. If you have not joined, PTSO, please do. If you have time to volunteer, they are always looking for additional volunteers.

We have a lot of moving parts at Starr's Mill and appreciate all of the support we get. Ultimately, we demand excellence to make sure your student is as successful as possible now and in the future. We are blessed to have a community that values our school and supports school activities. That support is essential for us to be successful in our most important mission, the success of your student.

Go Panthers!!!
Allen Leonard
Principal



Parking

One issue we have had to deal with on the South Complex (SMHS, RSMS, and PES) is people illegally parking in fire lanes and other areas that are not designated for vehicle parking. You may have received an email from the FCBOE county office regarding this issue. This has especially occurred during the after school hours when school personnel are not present to patrol the lots. When driving a vehicle to the South Complex, please make sure you park in a space designated to parking of your type of vehicle. The Fayette County Sherriff's department and the Fire Marshal plan to crack down on vehicles parked in fire lanes or on fire access roads. This could mean tickets and/or having a vehicle towed if it is parked where it prevents an emergency vehicle from accessing the campus.

This happens most frequently in our bus loop and in the loop in front of the school. Please remember that areas marked with a red curb are fire lanes 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Please do not park there, even if you are "just going to run in". All visitors to the main office should park in the front lot in any of the spaces. Any space in the front lot not otherwise marked can be used by visitors or faculty for parking at any time.

Also, our new golf cart lot near Rising Starr and the softball field is for golf carts only. That lot was not designed to handle the weight of automobile traffic and will be damaged if automobiles park in it. We are also trying to make sure our golf carts have a safe place to park as well. Automobiles parked in the Golf Cart lot will be towed.

MUSINGS

Want to support budding writers? Want to facilitate the development of a growing program at Starr's Mill? Consider a literary-art magazine sponsorship! Your contribution will assist the Writer's Workshop and Creative Writing classes in funding and producing this year's edition of MUSINGS, the annual SMHS literary-art magazine. In 2014, the American Scholastic Press Association named MUSINGS as one of the top ten literary-art magazines in the nation for a school the size of SMHS, and it has earned "1st Place with Special Merit" the past three years. With your support, this level of success can become a lasting tradition, and young writers will gain recognition for their work.

For a sponsorship form, please contact Mrs. Jillian Bowen (bowen.jillian@mail.fcboe.org) or Mr. Justin Spencer (spencer.justin@mail.fcboe.org).

Beta Club

Starr's Mill Beta club is off to a great start! We already have many organizations contacting us for help and we look forward to helping out our community in many ways this year. One event we look forward to every year is our state convention which will be held this year March 4th-6th at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta. Sign-ups are already underway and if you sign up by October 21st, then you receive a \$25 discount off the \$150 cost for the trip.

Please mark the mandatory meeting dates below on your calendar - remember, members can only miss one meeting per semester to remain in good standing.

September 17
 October 15
 November 19
 December 10
 January 21
 February 18
 March 10
 April 14
 May - TBD

To be eligible for induction into the National Beta club, a student must have an overall GPA of 90% or higher. Eligible students will receive a letter of invitation towards the end of February to attend a meeting where they will learn the requirements to be inducted into the National Beta club. See our website (<https://sites.google.com/a/mail.fcboe.org/smhs-beta-club/>) for other important information.



Guidance

The PSAT will be held Wednesday, October 14. **YOU MUST TAKE THE PSAT DURING YOUR JUNIOR YEAR TO QUALIFY FOR THE NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION.**

Juniors and freshmen will need to sign up in the Guidance Department starting September 14th, if interested. The cost will be \$20. Sophomores do not need to sign up or pay – the state pays for all sophomores to take the PSAT.

Useful websites for:

- information on Georgia colleges: www.GAcollge411.org
- scholarship searches: www.fastweb.com
- sign up for the SAT: www.collegeboard.org
- sign up for the ACT: www.actstudent.org

Club Z is sponsoring two Practice ACT tests this fall for \$25 each. This is a great opportunity to get a practice run before taking the real test. The first will be held at Whitewater High School on September 19th. The second will be held at McIntosh High School on September 26th. You may register online at the following website: www.tinyurl.com/ClubZACT. There will be an interpretation session about two weeks after each test, at which you will received detailed feedback on your child's performance on the

Practice PSAT/SAT offered in the new SAT testing format

SMHS and Club Z will host a practice test for the new PSAT/SAT test on Saturday, September 12th., 7:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., in the Duke auditorium. Both the PSAT and the SAT are changing to a new format beginning with the fall administration of the PSAT. Juniors who take the PSAT in October may qualify for National Merit Scholarships, and we suggest you be familiar with the new format. All Juniors should take both the ACT and the SAT in the spring. This practice test will help you prepare for this first testing experience.

Seniors planning to take the new SAT during second semester may also consider this practice test. Sophomores might consider the test to prepare for the PSAT administration in October. PSAT scores are used in the Advanced Placement application rubric. Registration is \$25 and students can register online through the following link.

www.tinyurl.com/ClubZNEWSAT

Sophomores and Sophomore Parents —

Homecoming is quickly approaching and as you know, our sophomore class is responsible for putting on this big night! The date is [SATURDAY, September 19, 7-10pm](#), in the SMHS gym. Our theme is *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Tickets will be on sale at all three lunches beginning this Friday for \$15, and the price goes up to \$20 if students buy them that night at the dance.

Several of you signed up at Meet the Teacher to donate cases of water and also volunteered your time as a chaperone, or to help decorate the float, the hallway, or the gym. **WE NEED MORE PARENT VOLUNTEERS TO PULL THIS OFF!** Please sign up to help on the Sign Up Genius link sent through Infinite Campus, and you can choose which times you may be able to help or what items you might be able to donate.

Friday, 9/11 — 4:00 - 6:00, Decorate hallway

Saturday 9/12 — Decorate hallway

Wednesday after school, 9/16 — Final work on float

Friday, 9/18 — 4:00 - 6:00, Decorate gym for dance

Saturday 9/19 — 9:00 - 12:00, Decorate gym for dance

Juniors and Junior Parents

- Don't forget to pay your Junior Dues.
- Help decorate for homecoming. The hallway theme is Epcot, and everyone is asked to help:
 - ✦ Saturday, 9/12 — times TBA
 - ✦ Sunday, 9/13 — times TBA
- Order a Tervis Tumbler to support your class. Order forms are below:

PANTHER TERVIS TUMBLERS

Starr's Mill High School class of 2017 is proud to present Panther Tervis Tumblers.

Proceeds from our fundraiser will help offset costs for Prom 2016 and our May 2017 senior night.

To purchase, please fill in the order form below. We'll accept cash and checks for tumbler orders. Please make checks payable to: SMHS Class of 2017.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

***FYI:** *Tervis tumblers are dishwasher safe, hold hot & cold beverages, and carry a lifetime guarantee!*

LARGE (20 OZ) TUMBLER - \$25

Polka dot _____

Stripe _____

SMALL (16 OZ) TUMBLER - \$20

Polka dot _____

2 LARGE (20 OZ) TUMBLERS - \$45

Polka dot _____

Stripe _____



Total ordered: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Support SMHS when you shop!



Publix Make A Difference School Cards benefit Starr's Mill High School year after year. Don't forget to hand the cashier your card to earn rewards for SMHS. If you need an SMHS Publix card, they are available in the front office. Your Publix purchases tied to the school cards provided SMHS with more than \$2,800 last year!

Kroger's Community Rewards Program benefits nonprofit organizations, such as the SMHS PTSO. You can link your Kroger Plus Card to the SMHS PTSO in a few easy steps, and every time you shop at Kroger and use your card, you will earn financial rewards for Starr's Mill High School. In the 2014-2015 school year, SMHS earned nearly \$2,000 from this program.



If you already have a Kroger Plus Card and an online account with Kroger established, log onto www.krogercommunityrewards.com and sign into your account. Then under the heading of Community Rewards, simply select Starr's Mill High School PTSO (No. 17500) as the beneficiary.

If you don't have an online account set up, follow the steps to create one with an email and password, and then you can link your Kroger Plus Card to Starr's Mill as listed above. If you don't have a Kroger Plus Card, you can pick up an application at any Kroger customer service desk.

***PLEASE NOTE THAT KROGER REQUIRES A RE-ENROLLMENT IN ITS COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM BY EACH CARDHOLDER EACH YEAR. TO EARN BENEFITS FOR RSMS DURING 2015-2016, PLEASE RE-ENROLL IN THE PROGRAM AFTER AUG. 1, 2015.**



Through the **Target Take Charge of Education**[®] program, you can earn dollars for SMHS. Visit Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate Starr's Mill High School, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcard (Target Credit Card[®], Target Debit Card or Target Visa Credit Card), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to

PTSO INFORMATION FORM

SMHS STUDENT NAME(S)		
FIRST	LAST	GRADE _____
FIRST	LAST	GRADE _____
FIRST	LAST	GRADE _____

CONTACT INFORMATION	
PARENT NAME(S): _____	
★ ARE YOU A FACULTY MEMBER AT SMHS? IF SO, CIRCLE HERE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	
STUDENT(S) ADDRESS: _____	
PARENT E-MAIL: _____	
PARENT PHONE NO: Home: _____ Cell: _____	

FEES	
PTSO Membership (\$30/Family)	\$30.00
LOCKER/AGENDA (\$10/student)	
No. of students _____ x \$10	\$ _____
TOTAL PAID	\$ _____
Type of payment: Cash _____ Check# _____	

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES		
<i>(Parents, please circle the areas in which you would like to volunteer.)</i>		
Clinic	Academic Recognition Events	Office Volunteer
Media Center	Teacher Appreciation	Senior Events

Starr's Mill Football

2015 Schedule



Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Place
Aug. 14	Friday	Pike County	7:30	Home (Scrimmage)
Aug. 28	Friday	Whitewater	7:30	Away
Sept. 04	Friday	Fayette	7:30	Home (Faculty night)
Sept. 11	Friday	Dutchtown	7:30	Home (Youth night)
Sept. 18	Friday	Forest Park	7:30	Home (Homecoming)
Oct. 2	Friday	Drew	7:30	Away
Oct. 9	Friday	McIntosh	7:30	Home
Oct. 16	Friday	Morrow	7:30	Away
Oct. 23	Friday	Mundy's Mill	7:30	Home (Sr. Night)
Oct. 30	Friday	Northgate	7:30	Away
Nov. 06	Friday	Region Play-in	7:30	TBA

SMHS!

STARR'S MILL FAST PITCH

2015 SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	H/A	Varsity	JV
Sept. 9	Whitewater	H	7:00	5:00
Sept. 10	Morrow	H	5:30	
Sept 12	JV Tournament		TBA	
Sept 14	Bowdon	H	5:00	6:00
Sept 15	Mundy's Mill	A	5:30	
Sept 17	Northgate	H	6:30	5:00
Sept 21	East Coweta	A	6:30	5:00
Sept 24	Dutchtown	H	5:30	--
Sept 29	Luella	A	5:30	--
Oct. 1	ELCA	H	5:30	--
Oct. 5 - 9	Regionals	TBA		

2015 Starr's Mill Varsity Volleyball

Date	Day	Opponent	Location	Time
Aug 7	Friday	Northside (Columbus) Scrimmage	Away	6:00
Aug 11	Tuesday	OLM & Troup (Community night)	Home	5:30 & 7:30
Aug 13	Thursday	Mt. View & TBA	Mt. View	6:00 & 7:00
Aug 14 / 15	Friday / Saturday	Sequoyah Tournament	TBA	TBA
Aug 18	Tuesday	Johns Creek & TBA	Johns Creek	TBA
Aug 20	Thursday	Whitewater & TBA	Home	5:00 & 7:00
Aug 27	Thursday	Newnan & Columbus	Home	5:00 & 7:00
Sept 1	Tuesday	Northgate & Drew	Home	5:30 & 7:30
Sept 3	Thursday	Stockbridge & TBA	Stockbridge	TBA
Sept 10	Thursday	Norcross & Kennesaw Mt	Norcross	TBA
Sept 15	Tuesday	Morrow & Mundy's Mill	Mundy's Mill	6:30 & 7:30
Sept 17	Thursday	East Coweta & Columbus	East Coweta	5:00 & 6:00
Sept 19	Saturday	Sandy Creek Play date	Sandy Creek	TBA
Sept 22	Tuesday	McIntosh & Forest Park	Northgate	5:30 & 6:30
Sept 24	Thursday	Whitewater & Newnan	Newnan	6:00 & 7:00
Sept 28	Monday	Troup & TBA	Troup	TBA
Sept 29	Tuesday	Area crossover match (TBA) Senior Night	Home	5:30
Oct 1	Thursday	Mundy's Mill & Whitewater	Whitewater	6:15 & 7:15



Cross Country

DATE	MEET NAME	MEET LOCATION
Saturday, August 15, 2015	Time Trails	SMHS track
Saturday, August 29, 2015	Providence Invitational	McAlpine Greenway Park, NC
Saturday, September 5, 2015	Nike Panther Invitational	XC course Heritage Christian Church
Saturday, September 12, 2015	Carrollton Invitational (State Meet Preview)	Carrollton Elementary School Carrollton, GA
Saturday, September 19, 2015	no meet	
Saturday, September 26, 2015	Aubrae Gunderson Meet	Conyers Horse Park, Conyers, GA
Saturday, October 3, 2015	County Meet	Sandy Creek High School
Saturday, October 10, 2015	ASICS Invitational	Foxhall Sporting Club Douglasville, GA
Saturday, October 17, 2015	no meet	
Saturday, October 24, 2015	Region 4 AAAA meet	XC course Heritage Christian Church
Saturday, November 7, 2015	State Championships	Carrollton Elementary School Carrollton, GA