



JAGUAR NATION

NOVEMBER 2020 • VOLUME 10, No. 1

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

SCVTHS BEGINS HYBRID SCHEDULE FOR STUDENTS

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Jaguar Nation,

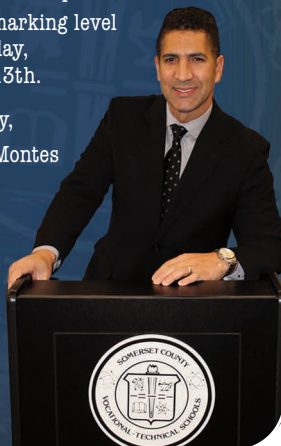
We are excited that we were able to open our doors on October 5th with a hybrid schedule. SCVTHS is pleased with the results of the planning and adherence to safety protocols by students and staff. We will continue to assess our current schedule, procedures and if necessary, amend them throughout the school year. As previously mentioned, this is a community effort. We need everyone to do their part to ensure our school remains open for business.

We are fast approaching some breaks on our calendar in November and December. If a student travels to a state or country that is considered a "hotspot," he or she must quarantine for 14 days and switch to all remote instruction.

SCVTHS is now offering free breakfast and lunch to all students. Please be sure to review the interim reports now available in Genesis, and if needed, create a plan of improvement.

Our first marking level ends on Friday, November 13th.

Sincerely,
Hector Montes



On Monday October 5, Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School (SCVTHS) began the first day of our hybrid learning schedule, welcoming students back into the buildings for the first time since March. Principal Hector Montes and the school's Linkages Department personally welcomed students back to the building by giving out gift bags which included items such as water bottles, snacks, earbuds, notepads and stress balls.

Each day, all nine scheduled periods will occur. However, students have been split into two groups (A & B) in order to reduce the number of students in the buildings. Students in the A Group will report to school on Mondays and Wednesdays. B Group students will report on Tuesdays and Thursdays. When not participating in in-person learning, students are to participate in remote instruction. All students will be learning remotely on Fridays.

As with many of the changes this year, SCVTHS has developed and prioritized enhanced cleaning and sanitizing procedures to reduce the spread of contagions. Each day, using EPA registered disinfectants and EPA protocols, the buildings will be cleaned and disinfected. Additionally, high use areas have been identified for extra cleanings. Hand sanitizer has been distributed to each classroom and sanitizer stations have been placed throughout the buildings. Face coverings or masks and adhering to the 6 feet of social distancing guidelines are mandatory for all students and staff.

SCVTHS has placed additional signage throughout the campus to increase



(l-r): Cosmetology student Madison Zarzecki of Branchburg receives her gift bag from Principal Hector Montes on first day of school



(right): Walther Mejia of Pritchard Industries, Inc. displays a Protexus Cordless Electrostatic Sprayer being used as part of the cleaning process at SCVTHS

awareness of social distancing requirements. "One Way" signs have been placed on the hallway floors and posters have been posted throughout the campus. Parents and guardians have been asked to adhere to the Governor's advisories and attest daily to student temperature and symptom checks.

"Our main goal is to keep our students and staff healthy and safe. It will take cooperation from all of us to successfully implement our hybrid remote and in-person instruction," stated Dr. Chrys Harttraft, Superintendent of Schools.*

For additional details relating to the safety precautions taking place at Somerset County Vocational & Technical Schools, please refer to the District's "Restart and Recovery Plan" located at www.scvths.org.





JAGUAR NATION

NOVEMBER 2020

SCVTHS JUNIOR PARTICIPATES IN AMERICAN INVITATIONAL MATHEMATICS EXAMINATION

JAGUAR NATION

Volume 10, No. 1 • November 2020

Duane Wallace • Editor & Designer

James Strickhart • Editorial

Sharleen Leahey • Graphic Production

Janet Cantore-Watson • Photography

SOMERSET COUNTY VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

VOCATIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION

William G. Hyncik, Jr., President

Gregory Lavee, Vice President

Richard St. Pierre Nadine Wilkins

Roger A. Jinks, Executive County Superintendent

Melanie Marano, Freeholder Liaison

ADMINISTRATION

Chrys Harttraft, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

Raelene Sipple, School Business Administrator / Board Secretary

Hector Montes, Principal

Maria Johnson, Director of Special Services



This publication was funded by the
Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders



First Place Winner - Newsletter Category

This past summer, Rachel Yuh, a junior in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences at SCVTHS, qualified and took part in the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). The examination is an exclusive fifteen question test, given to those who rank in the top 5% on the American Mathematics Contest (AMC) 12 high school mathematics examination. According to the Mathematical Association of America, the AIME is the second of two tests used to determine qualification for the United States Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO), the first being the AMC.

SCVTHS Mathematics Instructor Bryant Jefopoulos stated, "I am very proud of Rachel. While Rachel may be naturally gifted at math, what sets her apart from other students is her determination and the effort she puts into the subject. Rachel looks for every opportunity to gain more mathematics knowledge. She competes in math tournaments through the school (Math Madness) and also attends mathematics summer camps. Rachel's score on the AMC 10 puts her in the top 2.5% of students who took the test which is truly impressive. I look forward to seeing how she does on the AMC 12 her junior and senior year."

"Taking the exam was definitely a challenge, but I thought it was a rewarding experience overall," said Rachel. "It was really amazing seeing how very simple



Rachel Yuh, a junior in the Academy for Health and Medical Sciences at Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School who recently competed in the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME)

math concepts could be applied in various, abstract ways. I believe that these contests inspired me to do more math outside of school, whether it be taking online classes or applying and getting accepted to the Canada/USA Mathcamp." Rachel went on to add, "I am really thankful for Mr. Jefopoulos, my freshman and sophomore math teacher, for hosting these competitions and guiding me through them. I hope to encourage others into trying out these types of events and also exploring the diverse fields of mathematics."✳

For more information, contact James Strickhart at

Megan Lam

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Megan Lam, a freshman in the Graphic Communications Program, has been selected as Somerset County Vocational & Technical High School's (SCVTHS) Student of the Month for October 2020. Megan is the daughter of Patrick and Mya Lam of Bound Brook.

SCVTHS Spanish Instructor Guillermo Reina nominated Megan for the Student of the Month Award because Megan is, "an outstanding student who excels virtually as well as in the classroom. She has been very committed to succeed in her studies since day one. She is the highest achieving student in the class. Kudos to Megan!"

As a freshman, the Student of the Month Award is Megan's first high school award. However, last year, Megan served as the vice president of her school's National Junior Honor Society and was also a member of the National Junior Art Honor Society.

Outside of school, Megan enjoys playing tennis, as well as playing games online with her friends. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Megan was very active volunteering at a nursing home and other events in her home town.

After high school, Megan plans on studying environmental business in college, in hopes of finding a career as a sustainability specialist.

"I'm thankful for receiving the Student of the Month Award and am looking forward to my time at SCVTHS," said Megan upon receiving the award.✳



Megan Lam