



# Sydenham High School

Spirit, Heritage and Success

## Principal's Message

September 22, 2009

Welcome back to another exciting year at Sydenham High School. We are off to a fantastic start, and I am looking forward to a wonderful year.

As you are aware, this is my first year at Sydenham. I want to thank staff, students, parents and the community for your warm welcome. As part of my entry plan, I have had the pleasure of speaking with a number of students, parents and members of the community. The results clearly indicate that SHS places a strong emphasis on excellence in academics, arts and athletics. It is also evident that the school is the hub of the

community, with many volunteers assisting with school-based activities. If I have not had the opportunity to meet and speak with you, I look forward to doing so in the near future.

I believe students excel in an environment where they are engaged and challenged. It is critical that we provide varied learning opportunities to meet the needs of all students. We must have high expectations for every student, and even higher expectations for ourselves.

A safe and caring environment is necessary to maximize teaching for learning. In this context, staff

and students are encouraged and supported in taking controlled risks. Creativity and innovation in education are integral in preparing all students for success beyond high school.

We would like to welcome some new staff to SHS – Megan Van Noten, Lisa De Kairielle, Tyson Kellerman, Margot Craft, Shawn Lavender and Brian Nesbitt .

I look forward to working with students, staff, parents, and members of the community to ensure that every student is successful and reaches his or her potential.

### Important Dates

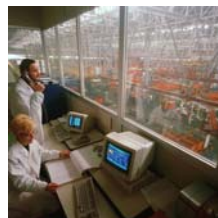
- September 25 - PA Day No School
- October 1 - Atlantic Colleges / Universities Visit
- October 2 - Bubba Bowl 6:00-8:00 pm
- October 7 and 8 - Leadership Camp
- October 8 - Academic Awards Assembly
- October 9 - Early Reports
- October 12 - Thanksgiving
- October 14 - Parent Council – 6:00 – 7:00
- October 14 - Parent Evening – 7:00 pm
- October 23 - PD Day
- October 30 - School Dance

## Specialist High Skills Major

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a bundle of credits, experiences and certifications that focuses on one sector of the economy. At Sydenham High School, students have the opportunity to

qualify for an SHSM in two areas of interest: **Hospitality** or **Manufacturing**. A SHSM prepares students for successful transitions into apprenticeship training, college, university, or employment. Further

information can be obtained by contacting Mr. Kearns, in Guidance, or Mr. Mol in the Tech Department.



## Student Timetables

Our guidance department has been busy meeting with students and parents during the last three weeks. All students in Grades 9 and 10 are required to take four courses in each semester. Students in Grades 11 and 12 may have a spare during one semester, in each of their senior years. Our guidance department also fulfills the following tasks:

- Career counseling
- Facilitating post-secondary information sessions for students

- Creates exit plans for students leaving SHS
- Collaboratively develops timetables for new and returning students
- Co-ordinates students enrolling in Focus Programs (in conjunction with Student Success)

Mrs. Kusters will be responsible for guidance tasks for all students in Grades 9 and 11, while Mr. Kearns will assist students in Grades 10 and 12 (including 5<sup>th</sup> year students).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our guidance department at 613-376-3612 extension 308

## SCHOOL COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR ASSISTANCE!

The SHS School Council is seeking parent and community support for 2009 – 2010. They are looking for individuals who can commit an hour four times a year to attend a Parent Council Meeting. You do not have to attend every meeting.

The role of Parent Council is to represent the school community by bringing topics forward to be discussed, encouraging parent and

community representation, developing goals that the School Council would like to achieve, collaboratively working with the School and greater community to achieve the outcomes in

**“The involvement of parents and the community makes a significant difference in the success of students.”**

the School Improvement Plan, and to enhance the communication between school, community and the Parent Council. **The first Parent Council meeting takes place on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the school.** We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

## SHS Awarded Bronze for Green Initiatives

Students and staff at Sydenham High School were recognized by Trustees at the September 9th Limestone District School Board meeting for becoming one of the first four schools in the Limestone District School Board to receive **Ontario EcoSchools** certification, a program that recognizes a school's environmental stewardship.

Ann Goodfellow, Chair of the Board stated, "This involves a real commitment of school administration, staff, and students." She added,

"Congratulations on this significant achievement, and for leading the way in the LDSB."



To achieve certified EcoSchool status, staff and students participate in an exciting, school-wide program that integrates ecological literacy with hands-on activities to conserve energy, reduce waste and green their school grounds.

Congratulations to North Addington Education Centre who received Gold certification, to NDSS and Module de l'Acadie on receiving Silver status, and Sydenham HS for obtaining Bronze certification.