

December 9, 2019

Greetings,

Well, with the recent weather and the start of Winter Athletics it certainly feels that winter has firmly established its presence and is here whether we like it or not. I encourage you to bundle up, drive safely and enjoy it. Parents of student drivers please remind them to take extra care and precautions with driving in winter weather. All drivers, students and parents, please be mindful of conditions and students when entering and leaving school grounds.

Dates To Remember

December 10: Early release day, students dismissed at 2:15

December 14: 2nd Quarter mid point. Please review your student's PowerSchool account for updated progress.

December 20: Early release day, students dismissed at 2:15

December 21 - January 5: Holiday Vacation

New opportunity for students at SHS

Stoneham Public Schools values the linguistic diversity of our school community and appreciates the dedication and commitment involved in advanced language study. Stoneham High School is proud to participate in the **MA State Seal of Bilingualism**- an award given to graduating seniors who have attained complete proficiency in English and a partner language. The awarded student will have fluency in all four domains of language (reading, writing, speaking and listening), when all exist of both languages.

This program is designed to both motivate and recognize students who have pursued and attained bilingualism during their academic career in Stoneham. It is a national initiative that was signed into law by the State of Massachusetts in November of 2017 as a part of the [Look Act](#).

The chart below summarizes the awards and the criteria for the state award.

Pathway Award	Standardized Assessment Criteria for English and Partner Language
MA State Seal of Bilingualism	Score of <i>Proficient</i> on the grade 10 ELA MCAS (240) Score of Intermediate-High in the lowest domain/mode of a proficiency test
MA State Seal of Bilingualism With Distinction	Score of <i>Advanced</i> on the grade 10 ELA MCAS (260) Score of Advanced - Low in the lowest domain/mode of a proficiency test

Stoneham High School students enrolled in a World Language Advanced Placement class in 2019-2020 will have the opportunity to take a proficiency test, if they have met the English MCAS requirement. Stoneham High School seniors NOT enrolled in a World Language AP class and believe their language skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) meet the criteria, will have an opportunity to meet with the Seal of Biliteracy coordinator to discuss next steps.

Awards and recognition will be given to graduating seniors at the high school's annual Spring Student Recognition Night ceremony and at the high school's graduation ceremony. A notation will be added to the students' transcript and a seal from the State of Massachusetts will appear on their high school diploma.

We look forward to honoring the language expertise and diversity in our district through this initiative. If you have any further questions, please contact either Sara Mills, Seal of Biliteracy coordinator, at smills@stonehamschools.org or by phone 781-279-3810, or your students school counselor.

FLEX Block

FLEX Block Enrichments for 12/9 - 12/12: [HERE](#)

Good Things at SHS

Alumni return and share college and career experiences: Three SHS alums (Class of 2015) volunteered their time to speak with **Mrs. Barde's Anatomy and Physiology students** on Dec. 4th. **Cassandra Susi**, Athletic Trainer at Bishop Fenwick High School and an aspiring Doctorate in Physical Therapy student, **Elise Briand**, a Registered Nurse on the Medical/Surgical floor at Mass General Hospital and **Michael Young**, a Research Associate at the Broad Institute of Harvard University/MIT and an aspiring PhD candidate in Biomedical Sciences shared their experiences of pursuing the sciences after SHS. Their talk was centered on real life applications/career choices for science and healthcare professions. They were candid in answering questions/concerns from their audience about college life, academic choices and rewards in pursuing their current professions. Furthermore, all three speakers have made themselves available for future contact to the students.

Library resources for students: [The Book Concierge](#) is NPR's annual, interactive, year-end reading guide. Mix and match tags such as [Book Club Ideas](#), [Biography & Memoir](#), or [Ladies First](#) to filter results and find the book that's perfect for you or someone you love. Each fall, NPR reaches out to its staffers and trusted critics and ask them to nominate their favorite books of the year. They respond with hundreds of titles. Then, the editors and producers at NPR Books sit down with a huge spreadsheet of responses; select their favorites, resolve duplications, note omissions and consider the overall mix and balance of books recommended.

Rise and Shine Spartan School Store: The student run Rise and Shine Spartan School Store is now open, Tuesdays 12 - 12:30 and Fridays 10:30 - 11:00. Get your Spartan gear. Cash only.



Students of the Month: Each month, the faculty, by department, select a student who has done exceptional work during that month. We honor these students each month by displaying each student's picture in a video shown in the front lobby of the school, as well as on the high school website. November Students of the month [HERE](#)

Academic excellence: At the December 5 School Committee students were recognized for their level of academic performance and participation in the following areas:

Abigail Adams Scholarship:

1. Students who score in the Advanced category on one of three MCAS tests in English Language Arts, Mathematics, or STE (Biology, Chemistry, Introductory Physics or Technology/Engineering)
 - a. Score in the Proficient or Advanced category on the remaining two high school state assessment tests
 - b. Have a combined MCAS score on these assessments that ranks in the top 25% in their school district.
 - c.
2. Recipients of the John and Abigail Adams Scholarship are eligible for an award of merit based credit toward tuition at State Universities and Community Colleges.

Massachusetts Superintendent's Award:

Recognition of academic excellence, community service and other activities that distinguish high school students

The National School Development Council Award:

Recognition of academic growth and student leadership in learning

Recipient List [HERE](#)

