



# Spartans Newsletter



SHAPE American High School

15 December 2008

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The band performs right before Winter Break.



## From the Principal

To our SHAPE American High School Community,

We are combining our December/January Newsletter and won't be sending another one until the end of January. I will, however, be sending updates and a variety of other information out to you throughout the next two months.

For your planning: Semester Exams will be the week of January 12th with normal release times. However, for Thursday, January 15, the exam is finished at 11:40. Students will go to homerooms until lunch at 12:10. This will be a time for teachers to inform their students on what is expected of them, and prepare them for the school wide assessment after lunch. Lunch will end at 13:00, like normal, and students

will return to homerooms for administration of our School Improvement Planned local assessment. Friday, January 16th, is a Teacher Workday, no school for students. Second semester begins on Monday, January 19th, 2009!

On Friday, January 23rd, we will have our Parent Conference day. No school for students. We will be requiring parents of seniors, not on track to graduate, to meet with the respective teachers and the senior counselor. Those seniors in danger of not graduating are being requested to attend the parent conference as well.

Lastly, you may have noticed that DoDEA is asking for your feedback via DoDEA Customer Survey. Your feedback is important to us. Would you please tell us how we are doing and how we can improve the quality of your child's education by completing this survey at: <https://webapps.dodea.edu/CSS0809/index.cfm>

When prompted for Area, District and School, please list the following.

Area: Europe. District: Isles. School: SHAPE MS/HS

Have a great Winter Holiday. Sincerely, David A. Tran, Principal SHAPE American High School

## Semester Exam Daily Schedule

8:50—9:35: Period Review  
9:35—9:45: Break  
9:45—11:40: Exam

11:50—12:35: Period Review  
12:35—13:30: Lunch (for all students)  
13:35—15:30: Exam

Monday: Periods 1 and 7  
Tuesday: Periods 2 and 6  
Wednesday: Periods 3 and 5  
Thursday: Period 4/Local Assessment.  
As part of Continuous School Improvement students will take a test on Thursday afternoon.

## A Cultural Mosaic: ESL Festival



Part of the mosaic, which is currently hanging across from the Main Office.

"When is the ESL Festival going to be?" eagerly ask ESL students at the beginning of every school year. This year's rendition took place on the Americans' Thanksgiving Day, 27 November in the International Cafeteria with more than twenty countries represented.

"A Cultural Mosaic", this year's theme, dominated the spirit of the celebration. Students embellished photos of themselves with personalized designs which the Middle School ESL students put together as the mosaic icon of the festival. It is presently

hanging across from the main office.

Parents, teachers, ESL students and administrators marveled at the displays of artifacts, power point presentations, music, dances and gourmet foods lovingly and painstakingly prepared and presented.

Students introduced the performances, the highlights of which included piano selections, Kozma Lara's "Prelude" and Tonin Harapi's "Me e bujur se trendafilii," played beautifully by Esmeralda Ahmetaj. Following was traditional dances, viz. zonaradiko, fragosiriani, ikariotikos and zormpas, by Greek

students. The Spanish HS girls danced fluidly to Rosario Flores' "Muchas Floras", while the Spanish MS girls enthusiastically danced to Las Ketchup's "Asereje". Later, students, teachers and guests joined the performers in the Greek Sirtaki, a la Zorba the Greek, and the Spanish "La Macarena."

The ESL Festival was a resounding success due to the work of all the students, parents and facilitators who made it possible.

## Continuous School Improvement (CSI)

### Join the team, be a CSI parent!

School Improvement or SIP in the previous improvement cycle has become Continuous School Improvement (CSI). CSI is a joint collaborative effort among parents, community, students, teachers and administrators to continuously improve the knowledge, skills, and guidance provided to all students. In other words, the purpose of the program, on a continuous basis, is to verifiably improve all student performance.

We want you to join our efforts to improve student performance in two essential areas: Reading Comprehension and Writing. The meaning of our specific goals is:

- Goal 1: All students will increase their ability to evaluate what they read through comprehension of content area
- Goal 2: All students will be able to write a competent analysis of content material or process

### What can you do to help?

You can support our goals by encouraging and supporting your student's efforts to improve their reading and writing. Volunteer at the school to assist one of the many academic support programs. Help us spread the word about CSI activities.

At a minimum, you can complete the DoDEA customer survey.

## PCSing?

Are you planning to move?

Don't forget to let the school know as soon as possible. Bring in a copy of your orders to the school registrar and begin to make arrangements to get your student's records and grades.



NJHS Members prepare to go to the orphanage

## The Spirit of Giving—A Don Bosco Tale

At the orphanage



*December 2-* As the bus rolled to a stop near the Don Bosco Orphanage,

an annual tradition continued. NJHS and NHS members strolled into the driveway and greeted the orphans with bags of baked goods and supplies. The kids met them eager for a game or two of soccer and basketball. A warm bowl of hot cocoa in the main room before NHS presented their gifts to the children, requested by the orphanage itself. This year, our school gave them four brand-new scooters. Squeals of delight rippled through the room, and the children then said their goodbyes to retreat into the evening.

“Mr. Tommy Temple looks to where the greatest need is for our visit. Don Bosco is an orphanage that NHS/NJHS has visited for the past 10 years,” replied the NJHS sponsor. Each time NJHS/NHS visits the orphanage, they purchase a big present for the children. “Last year it was a DVD player. Years past our groups have provided soccer uniforms, bedding and other needed items.”

## Expatriates in Paris

It's not every day that students get the opportunity to go on excursions into foreign countries for days on end as part of a class. To be exact, it happens four days of every year here at SHAPE High School. From

November 26<sup>th</sup> to November 29<sup>th</sup> this year, the AP English Literature class embarked on a journey into the heart of Paris to learn more about the American

writer Ernest Hemingway. Over the course of these four days, the students gave presentations on various periods of Hemingway's life, from his early childhood all the way until his unfortunate suicide. These presentations were able to utilize the city

itself to illustrate their points. We got to visit many cafés while we were in the area too, and I had the opportunity to sit and write poetry in the very spot Hemingway once wrote his stories in the Closerie des Lilas.

The trip wasn't just about good ol' Hemingway, however. We saw a great deal of the attractions that Paris is known for, from the Museum D'Orsay to Notre Dame to the Eiffel Tower. When we visited the New Shakespeare and Company, an amazing and quaint bookstore near Kilometer Zero the teacher introduced us to Sylvia Beach Whitman, the current owner and descendant of George Whitman. The teacher had told us that if we showed we could be responsible with our time, he would give us time to explore the city on our own. Of course, being high school seniors,



we are all experts at managing our time wisely and were able to earn free time every day of the trip. It was a time of learning in every sense, I can't speak for the rest of the class but I for one learned a great deal of useful life skills, like reading metro maps and navigating in a busy city. All in all, it was a fantastic trip, and definitely one of the highlights of my Senior year.



The teacher points to Shakespeare and Co., a bookstore in Paris, during the AP Lit. trip.



## Individual Achievements

### Creative Connections

Congratulations! The following artists, dancers and musicians from SHAPE HS have been selected to participate in The Creative Connections arts Festival 2009 to be held in Oberwesel, Germany in February.

### National Financial Literacy Challenge

Business students took the Financial Literacy Challenge the beginning of December. These five SHAPE students who participated in the challenge scored in the top 25th percentile of the nation's scores and received a certificate.

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### Office Hours During Winter Break:

9:00–13:00

22, 23 and 24  
December

29, 30 and 31  
December

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## P.E. Classes Go Ice Skating and Snowboarding





# January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
Winter Break: NO SCHOOL (School begins again on 5 January)						
4	5	6	7 8:50: ASVAB Testing, ITL	8	9 Home Basketball Games against Mannheim	10 Home Basketball Games Wrestling at Lakenheath
11	12 Semester Exams Periods 1 and 7	13 Semester Exams Periods 2 and 6	14 Semester Exams Periods 3 and 5 17:00 PTSA	15 Semester Exam Period 4 and CSI	16 NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day Basketball at Lakenheath	17 Chievres CAC: Home Wrestling Meet Basketball at Lakenheath
18	19	20 16:00 SAC	21	22	23 NO SCHOOL Parent Conferences Basketball at AFNORTH	24 Home Basketball Games Wrestling at Wiesbaden
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Wrestling at AFNORTH

## Contact Us:

To report a student absence by 10:00 a.m. call DSN 423-5755 Commercial 065 44 5755



Have  
you  
filled

out the Customer  
Satisfaction Survey for  
2008-2009 yet?

<https://webapps.dodea.edu/CSS0809>

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To activate or receive help with a Parent Connection Gradespeed Account:

DSN 423-5834

To contact a teacher by email:

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Website

<http://www.shap-hs.eu.dodea.edu>

SHAPE's mission is to dedicate all of its resources to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and guidance needed to become productive members of a global society.