

SMArticles

Science and Mathematics Academy

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Hello Fellow SMA Class of 2012

Last night was the 2012 SMA Capstone Gallery Walk, and though I could never top Matt's speech, I thought it appropriate that there be a few last words from the Seniors in the last SMArticles of the year. After getting home and finally falling asleep on the sofa yesterday, I woke up somewhere around three in the morning. Now, if you know me, you know that's not too far from normal. However, something was different this time. I wasn't waking up in a rush to finish a homework assignment or to put the finishing touches on a paper. I wasn't running up the stairs to get a shower because I'd passed out before I'd mustered up the energy to do it the night before. I had no need to rummage through a textbook for one last study session before a big test. Of course, when I first woke up my mind jumped to the conclusion that I needed to do at least one of these things, but sitting up, it all finally sank in – we're done. In less than two weeks we'll all walk across a stage in long yellow and blue robes and walk out of Aberdeen High School's front doors one last time – this time as graduates, ready to spread across the country and share the knowledge we've learned here as we expand our minds with things we can't yet imagine.

Now, a few parting words of wisdom for the upcoming SMA classes... First and foremost, always respect your teachers - take it from someone who has learned the hard way. Sure, sometimes it seems like they are trying to make life difficult, but in the end they only want the best for you. They care about both you and your work and want to see you succeed. They are always willing to help – all you have to do is ask. Second, appreciate your class – you only have one. Sure, the girl next to you might not wear the most popular shoes, or the guy in your homeroom may annoy you to no end, but tomorrow when you want to vent about a grade, or need help with that calculus problem you just can't get, they may just be the shoulder you cry on. There is never a reason to put someone down. We're all in this together, and that family feel is one of the things that makes the SMA special. Last, but not least, enjoy your time here. You may not always get the highest grade – or even make an A – but that doesn't mean you're a bad student. As long as you try your best, ask for help, and give your best effort, you'll be okay. No one is perfect, and just because you didn't ace this quiz doesn't mean you can't learn from your mistakes and do better next time. Take a breather, get a few good nights of sleep and relax, the world is not over and the sun will still rise tomorrow. These are your only years in high school, so don't forget to catch up with your friends, meet new people, go see the hit movie of the year, and have a few laughs – you'll feel better that you did.

Of course, as Seniors there is still a lot we do not know, but as a very wise friend of the SMA said last night, it is not what you know but how you learn. So long as you are willing to learn, you can know anything, and I know through learning each of my classmates will become very successful in life and wherever they decide to go. In a few months we will each go our own separate ways, and though we may not see each other every day or share all of the same inside jokes anymore, we will always have the days we shared in the SMA; we will always have each other's shoulders to cry on and smiles to share. Though we are leaving, our days in the SMA will remain in our memories and our hearts, and rest assured that at some point, we will be back to see the family we have left. As we go off to our respective colleges, we entrust the prestige of the SMA to each of you to uphold in your work and your person.

Best of luck in the coming years,

Nickole Kanyuch of the SMA Class of 2012

Our First Gallery Walk

By: Danielle Sykes and Peter Sheu

The senior capstone projects are a rite of passage for SMA students. It's our chance to show off our skill and intelligence (as if we don't already) and use the biggest words we can find! Being freshman, and seeing all of the seniors' capstone projects, we are confident that they haven't left a single useful idea behind! They've made maps, designed buildings, treated disorders, worked with chimpanzee, and many other amazing things you couldn't possibly imagine. But, none the less, we take our hats off to the seniors. They have spent at least 300 hours on these projects, managed to keep their cool, and create beautiful presentations. On May 22nd, 2012, we didn't just see a group of seniors, we saw a family of seniors. They came together to show everyone the spirit of the SMA. Seeing the capstone projects taught us to respect everything the seniors do! Our freshman class, has high standards to beat! Good luck to all of our seniors in college and your studies in your various fields. Finally, congratulations to all the SMA award winners!



The Class of 2012! Congratulation!

Guidelines to Surviving Junior Year

As all parents and most students probably know, junior year is often the make-or-break year for college applications, and by extension, the rest of your life. While your previous experiences will provide valuable aid to survive these 180 days with GPA and sanity mostly intact, there are certain gems of advice that can come only from a fellow student that survived what the next generations must survive. So here they are, the Guidelines to Surviving Junior Year (based on the author's current schedule):

Physics: Remember units on everything at all times. Trust me, your grade will plummet with little hope for last minute elevation if you lose unit points on a test.

SRT III: This class is designed to expand the horizons of the students to diverse areas such as engineering, environmental science, and bioinformatics. Keep an open mind, even if you are not particularly interested in the topic. Get your work done early and correctly. Ask your teacher (s) and your peers for help. DO NOT procrastinate, because this class is designed to evoke utter failure upon the last-minute student.

AP United States History: Keep your Interactive Notebook updated and study for tests. Turn all your work in and always, ALWAYS do well on the retake.

AP English 11: Expect only two ultimate results from Mrs. Hampton: by the end of the year, she will have either molded you into a fantastically better writer, or she will have shattered you into a million pieces. Be prepared to work and take her advice to heart. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Mrs. Hampton intimidates, but she genuinely cares.

SMA Electives: These classes are dedicated primarily to learning useful information about a chosen topic, with a generally decreased emphasis on testing. Make sure you choose electives you actually care about, because you can gain a real edge in your field.

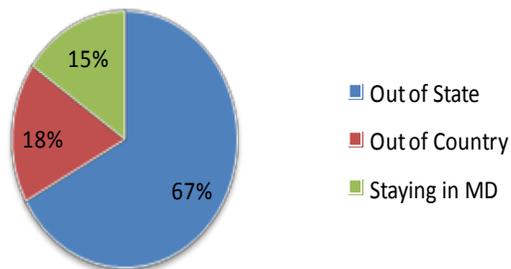
Language: All language classes follow the same basic guideline: Do your schoolwork, do your class work, and actually try. If you do those things, success is virtually guaranteed.

AP Calculus AB: Memorize the trigonometric and inverse trigonometric identities, derivatives, and integrals. Legitimately do the homework, because it will really help. Again, study for tests; they make up a whopping 60% of your grade.

Finally, and most importantly: Don't lose your confidence. Junior year is more than survivable; it is very possible to pass through with flying colors. Try hard at all the tasks you are assigned, no matter how stupid they seem to be or actually are. Be sure to relax when you need to and avoid burning yourself out. Outside class, take leadership roles in extracurricular activities if you are able to, as that will bring you ever closer to the ideal "well-rounded student." Good luck to you all. If you truly focus, you won't need it.

Where are our SMA students spending their summer?

By: Danielle Sykes and Peter Sheu



Planning for the Future

By: Natalie Muneses Abbey Sasdelli

It's almost the end of the year and summer is coming fast! Not only do you want to have fun, you also have to keep your future in mind. There are many interactive and competitive summer programs that are available to us. Many are sent through e-mail by Ms. Voskuhl and some, you can find on your own. Whether you are interested in engineering, sciences, or mathematics, there is a summer camp for you! Most of the deadlines for this summer have already passed but it is never too early to start thinking about next year.

Some example of programs that were offered this year is the Gains in Educations of Math and Science (GEMS), the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP), and the College Qualified Leaders (CQL) program. Each offers something a little different that may pertain to a specific interest of yours. Just take a little time out of your day to look into these few fun and interesting camps. They also do not take too much time out of your summer depending on which one you choose.



SMA Graduates Celebrating!

Interview With A SMA Graduate, Stephanie Verk

Interviewer:

- **Now that you are done with high school, are you glad you went to the SMA instead of staying at your home school?**

Even before I came to the SMA I was dead set against going to my home school so for me it's never really been a question. I will say that I have never once had any regrets about my decision.

- **Do you think that doing music and sports has helped you get through high school?**

Definitely! Although it's taken a lot of time management and dedication, sports and music have helped me in so many ways. It's a different kind of learning experience, in school you're taught more about the methods and techniques to solve a problem whereas on the field or the stage it's more about discovering a part of yourself. I think that aspect of becoming a part of a larger team or sound really speaks to you on a different level and has encouraged me to stay motivated and push myself both in and out of school.

- **Do you have any suggestions for other people who are trying to play sports or stay in music or arts while still doing well in school?**

Prioritizing is essential. Balancing extracurricular activities and school work can be a lot to handle but it is manageable. If there's something you love and are really willing to work for then don't quit. It might mean making a few sacrifices but as long as you know what's important to you chances are you will find a way to make it work.

- **Did you enjoy spending your senior year with your mentor on your capstone project?**

I did; my mentor was really nice and I had a blast designing and completing a project under his guidance. SRT IV al ways kept me challenged and most days I had more questions than answers but having my mentor and faculty advisor for support made all the difference.

- **Are you excited to go to college even though it means leaving the SMA?**

It would be hard for me to be anything but excited! My time at the SMA has been great; working with and getting to know my classmates has been so much fun and it's sad to think that this is the last time we'll all be together. But after a while, high school gets repetitive and there comes a point where you can only take so much away from it all. I'm happy to say that in my four years here I think I've managed to make the most of every experience and opportunity and can leave without any regrets. I'll always have the memories and those friendships that are meant to last will.

- **Do you think that the SMA has prepared you for college more than a regular high school?**

Absolutely, keeping up with the course work and staying on top of things has been in no way easy but most things in life aren't. By getting a head start and challenging myself now pushing myself beyond my limits has become second nature. I have every confidence that I'll be able to tackle whatever is thrown at me in college and if it doesn't work out at first then I won't give up until I meet not just the given standards, but the standards that I hold for myself which are considerably higher. The key is learning to adapt.

- **Do you have any advice for other SMA students to help them get through high school?**

Whatever your opinion of the program is, don't quit. I've lost my fair share of sleep putting in the extra effort that the SMA requires but in the end it's all worth it. It may be hard to see the big picture but you have so much more to gain by sticking with it.

Chief Editor: Nidhi Shah and Dominique Overmen

Chief Designer: Yash Patel

Thank You for helping make the SMArticles a very big success and hopefully next