



SMArticles



Science and Mathematics Academy

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What's New in SRT?

By: Nishad Rahman



Top: Laura Robusto (Left) and Nisarga Patel (Right) work with Boe-Bots. Bottom: Dianna Kitt (Left) and Megan Lutrey (Right) happily examine leaves from their yards in order to identify their species.



The class Science, Research, and Technology (SRT) is what make the Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School truly unique. Students learn real-world skills in a variety of fields, from research to engineering to technical writing. It is an experience that no other school can offer.

The freshmen are in the process of mastering Microsoft Excel, a software that is ubiquitous and widespread in today's workplaces. According to freshman Kirthika Ramakrishnan, "Learning the different functions and applications for Microsoft Excel will give us a real edge when it's time to go find jobs."

The sophomores are getting introduced to programming by learning Microsoft's Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), an application that is built into Microsoft Excel. "Our current assignment is to encrypt a message with VBA on Excel," says sophomore Devin Murray. This allows the students to generate passwords that would be nearly impossible to hack.

The juniors are split between three areas: Some are with Mrs. McDonough, cloning duckweed; others are with Mr. Evans and Mr. Leff, preparing to build an electronic carnival game; and still others are with Mrs. Gabriel, "identifying the trees on the AHS school grounds and using that information to determine the financial benefits," as junior Samara Miller says.

The seniors are immersed into their various Capstone projects. As always, projects cover vast areas in the field of research; Mikhail Wolfe's project involves methods to reduce visual fatigue from 3D TVs, while Hunter Murray's project involves the comparison of home-made shin guards versus manufactured shin guards.

How Do You Like the SMA?- Freshman

"I love it. The work was little overwhelming at first but now I'm used to it. It's challenging but not too much."

-Alyssa Chalmin

"The SMA is really fun; more work than middle school, but still fun."

- John Uncangco

Join the SMA Clubs!

Robotics Team: Are you interested in building robots and competing against other schools at an international level? Join the Aberdeen High School's FIRST Robotics Team 1980. See Mr. Evans for more information.

Green Team: Join the social movement to save the environment. Help keep the community aware of recycling and participate in fun many environmental activities. Talk to Mrs. McDonough for more information.

Academic Team: Are you interested in quickly answering trivia questions and being on TV? How about competing with other people from various schools? If you answer yes to these questions, then talk to Mrs. Voskuhl for more information.

In collaboration with the National Honor Society at Aberdeen High School, *Stop Hunger Now* gives students the opportunity to do their part in this great cause. The National Honor Society at Aberdeen High School is currently trying to accumulate \$2,500 to provide food to impoverished countries and the suffering people within them. **If you would like to make a donation, please find Matt Wang or the donation buckets on the third floor.**

MO's Advice Corner

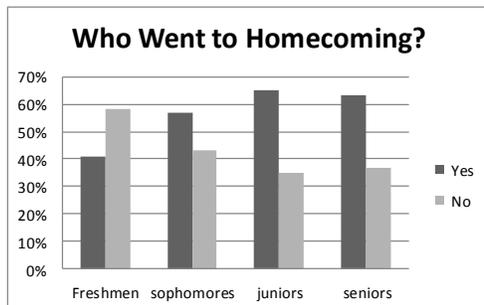
By: Maggie Weese and Olivia Webster

High School has so much to offer students, from the clubs and extracurricular activities to the sports teams; however, it can be hard to balance school work and all these opportunities at times. There are a lot of great things that come from being involved in your school, such as getting to meet new people. Being in after school activities really gives you the chance to develop new relationships and to learn how to manage time and keep priorities in balance.

When signing up for extra activities, the most important thing to remember is that school needs to come first. As important as the groups you are in may be, you'll be less stressed if you always make school your number one priority. Students can make it work, they just need to remember to prioritize and use their time wisely. Join as many clubs as you only feel comfortable with and stay committed to them.

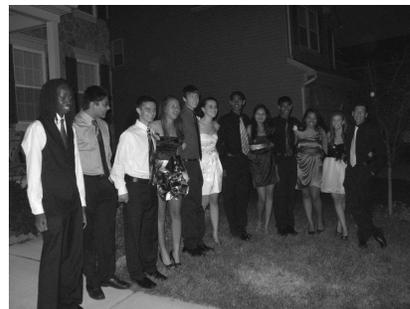
While it can be difficult to balance sports, clubs, and school, this task is extremely doable. Writing a list each night and using your planner are great, easy ways to stay organized. By balancing your time wisely, your life can become much less stressful.

Survey Question:



From Left to Right: Stephen Lyons, Yash Patel, Andrew Montgomery, Samara Miller, Micah Dailey, Sarah Morris, Nishad Rahman, Nidhi Shah, Naveed Rahman, Dominique Overman, Kerry Brusco, Jeo Fernandez.

At Homecoming 2011!



Teacher's Corner:

Mr. Chapman	Mrs. Gabriel	Mrs. McDonough	Mr. Davis
<p><u>Biology- Freshmen:</u> Using Image J to draw scale images of cells & using calorimetry to find the number of calories in fruit.</p> <p><u>Chemistry-Sophomores:</u> Electronic Figuration & specific Heat Capacity.</p> <p><u>AP Chemistry- Juniors & Seniors:</u> Performing volumetric titrations.</p>	<p><u>Earth Science- Freshmen:</u> Finishing the Rocks and Minerals unit and moving onto landscaping.</p> <p><u>SRT III- Juniors:</u> Finishing up tree unit & identifying ecosystems of AHS trees and trees at home.</p>	<p><u>SRT II- Sophomores:</u> Bioinformatics & Genetic Engineering.</p> <p><u>AP Biology-Sophomores, Juniors, & Seniors:</u> Metabolism & Enzymes.</p>	<p><u>SRT I- Freshmen:</u> 1st presentations on explaining functions in basic computer programs.</p> <p><u>SRT II-Sophomores:</u> VB programming & will soon be moving onto Microsoft Excess.</p>

Mr. Leff	Mrs. Liberto	Mr. Evans	SMA Seniors – SRT IV
<p><u>SRT III-Juniors:</u> Application of Statistics.</p> <p><u>Trigonometry- Sophomores:</u> Laws of Sine & Cosine.</p>	<p><u>Algebra II- Freshmen:</u> Systems & Equations.</p> <p><u>AP Calc- Juniors:</u> Derivatives.</p> <p><u>SRT I- Freshmen:</u> 1st presentations on explaining functions in basic computer programs.</p>	<p><u>SRT II- Sophomores:</u> VB programming & will soon be moving onto Microsoft Excess</p> <p><u>SRT III- Juniors:</u> Application of Statistics</p> <p><u>AP Calculus BC-Seniors:</u> Integration Techniques</p>	<p>Working on 1st presentations of capstone projects for mentors, fellow students, and SMA visitors</p>

The school year is off to a great start at the SMA! The newest edition to our SMA family, mathematics teacher Diana Liberto, is doing a fantastic job. Formerly a teacher at North Harford High School, Ms. Liberto brings with her a valuable background in computer science.

Additionally, we are excited to announce that the new SMA computer lab will be ready for use at the start of second quarter. The lab is equipped with high definition monitors and the latest software.

Finally, students keep an eye out for monthly social activities and as always check your email frequently to stay informed! November's activity is a food drive.

Sarah Voskuhl
Program Specialist

Welcome SMArticle readers. This first newsletter is just a small piece of what we would like to offer you monthly. The contents will contain information targeted specifically for SMA students and parents, written by SMA students and parents. Our mission is to inform you of SMA classroom and extracurricular "happenings" so that you don't miss out on opportunities and can reminisce in the "good ol'days." In order to sustain this project, we need ideas, stories, writers, photographers, designers, editors, etc; this extracurricular activity looks good on college and Honor Society applications. If you are interested in contributing an article or assisting the SMArticle team in any way, please see Nidhi Shah or Mrs. Gabriel. We intend to have a meeting for the upcoming newsletter twice a month.