

2011-2012
SCHOOL YEAR

Mohonasen High School

PARENT-STUDENT

Survival
GUIDE





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welcome

This “survival guide” has been developed to explain everything you ever wanted to know about high school – but were afraid to ask... didn’t know who to ask... kept forgetting to ask... you get the idea!

Mohonasen High School offers students a growing number of choices in coursework and extra-curricular activities. Read up on them so you know what’s available and how to get involved.

We hope this guide will help you navigate your high school years with greater confidence and a clearer understanding of all the choices that are available to you at Mohonasen.

Hang on to this guide and you’ll probably find yourself coming back to it as questions arise. If we left something out that would be useful for students or parents to know, please let us know so we can include it in future handbooks. Please keep in mind that the information contained in this guide will, over time, be subject to change.

MOHONASEN HIGH SCHOOL BLOCK SCHEDULE

Mohonasen High School is built on 80-minute blocks of time with the flexibility of conducting two 38-minute periods within each block. What follows are some key things to know about Mohonasen High School’s block schedule:

- **THE SCHEDULE FOLLOWS AN ALTERNATING SIX-DAY CYCLE:** Morning announcements will remind students if it is an A, B, C, D, E or F day. There will also be notices posted around the school as well as on the Mohonasen website.
- **ALL STUDENTS WILL HAVE A MIXTURE OF 80- AND 38-MINUTE PERIODS EVERY DAY.** While at first it may sound confusing, this combination of classes actually allows for more flexibility in instructional time. The information below should help clarify.
- **HOMEROOM IS SEPARATE FROM THE STUDENT’S REGULAR CLASSES** and takes place from 7:38-7:45 a.m. daily. Students must be in homeroom by 7:38 a.m., or they are considered tardy to school.

Classes that are 80-minutes long and meet ACE or BDF days:	Classes that are 38-minutes long and meet every day:	Classes that are 38-minutes and meet on a rotating basis:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies • Math • Foreign Language • Technology • Family/Cons.Science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English • Science • Art • Business • Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir • Music Theory • Band, Orchestra • Lunch
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Hall • Phys. Ed. • Labs (Academic Intervention Services, Math and Science)

■ **BLOCKS 1-2, 3-4 AND 8-9** are each comprised of 80 minutes of instructional time. Again, depending upon a student’s particular schedule, some students will remain in one class for 80 minutes, while others may be scheduled for two 38-minutes classes within the block.

- Block 1-2 runs from 7:51 to 9:11 a.m.
- Block 3-4 runs from 9:17 to 10:37 a.m.
- Block 8-9 runs from 12:51 to 2:11 p.m.

■ **BLOCK 5-6-7** is 122-minutes long and is split into three 38-minute periods. It runs from 10:43 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. daily. All students will eat lunch during one of these 38-minute periods. During the remainder of the time, students will either have an 80-minute class, or two 38-minute classes depending upon individual schedules.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR SCHEDULE? *During the first few days of school your teachers will spend time reviewing the schedule with you. Don’t be afraid to ask a teacher, a friend or stop down to the Counseling and Career Center for help in deciphering your schedule.*

- **BE ON TIME TO CLASS!** There are six minutes between the end of one block and the start of another. There are only four minutes between the 38-minute classes. Since there are fewer students passing during these times within the block, students should easily be able to get from one class to another on time. In some cases you may not have time to stop at your locker, so plan accordingly. If you are detained by a teacher, ask for a pass. Otherwise, if you’re not in your class by the time the bell rings, you’re tardy. This includes homeroom!

■ **ABOUT ACTIVITY PERIOD:** Activity period is an important part of the school day at Mohonasen. All faculty are available Tuesday through Friday during these periods. Transportation is provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is a designated time for:

- Extra academic help, when needed, with teachers.
- Scheduled meetings of school clubs, and extracurricular activities.
- Homework, particularly for athletes.
- Detention, if assigned.
- Parent-teacher conferences.

DAILY SCHEDULE		
HOMEROOM	HR	7:38-7:45
BLOCK 1-2	1	7:51-8:29
	2	8:33-9:11
BLOCK 3-4	3	9:17-9:55
	4	9:59-10:37
BLOCK 5-6-7	5	10:43-11:21
	6	11:25-12:03
	7	12:07-12:45
BLOCK 8-9	8	12:51-1:29
	9	1:33-2:11
ACTIVITY PERIOD	10	2:20-2:50

**DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS****Superintendent of Schools***Dr. Kathleen Spring – 356-8200***Asst. Superintendent for Business***Denise Swezey – 356-8210***Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction***Patrick McGrath – 356-8205***Director for Special Education & Alternative Education***Karla Empie – 356-8221***Administrator for Student & Operational Support Services***Christopher Ruberti – 356-8222***District Academic Administrators:**

- English Language Arts (6-12)

Lisa Cutting - 356-8345

- Literacy (K-2)

Arlene De Siena - 356-8266

- Science (K-12)

*Gerald Garing – 356-8254***OTHER KEY CONTACTS:****Athletic Director***Joseph Scalise**356-8270***Aquatics Program***Marc Vachon, Supervisor**356-8240***Buildings & Grounds***Joseph Mayo, Director of Facilities**356-8228***Business Department***Tracey Freemantle, Supervisor**& District Treasurer**356-8230***Continuing Education***Patricia Hopkins**356-8303***Communications***Adrienne Leon, Coordinator**Erin McNulty, Webmaster**356-8250***School Safety & Security***Jeffrey Jackson, Director**356-8355***Food Service Program***Kimberly Gagnon, Supervisor**356-8225***Transportation Department***Randy Jerreld, Director**356-8260***key contacts AT THE HIGH SCHOOL****Principal***David Collins**356-8301***Assistant Principals***Makensie Bullinger**356-8302**Tim Hulihan**356-8314***Dean of Students***Meredith Eberz**356-8315**Greg Massaroni**356-8315***Attendance Office***Cindy Clough**356-8315***Counseling & Career Center****356-8322 – Counselors:**

- Amy Huszar

- Mary Lockwood

- Rebecca Pauley

- Duane Wood

School Librarian*Lisa Backman**356-8331***School Nurse***Kathleen Cunningham**356-8310***School Psychologist***Elizabeth Young**356-8412***School Resource Officer***Officer Michael Rumbaugh**356-8214***School Social Worker***Elizabeth Castillo-**Haynesworth**356-8443**Lisa Stevens**356-8347**Margaret Sutton**356-8335***Student Assistance Counselor***Diane Blinn**356-8313***HIGH SCHOOL FACULTY BY DEPARTMENT**

All teachers have voicemail and e-mail. Parents who wish to contact a teacher should call the school's main number — 356-8300 — and ask to be connected with the teacher's voicemail or visit our searchable online staff directory at www.mohonasen.org/staffdir.

Art*Sandra Rowbo**Allison Vaughn**Michael York***Business***Susan Braiman**Margaret Morelli***English***Richard Burega**Elizabeth Craft**Kathleen Derochie**Kathryn Ermie**Kathleen Fiozzo**Martha Meskutovecz**Tara Shellard**Marc Sullivan**Kristen Vachon**Marvin Veeder***Foreign Language***Linda Breen**Heather Klikeman**Patrick Keegan**Nancy Ladd-Butz**Lynne Macko**Tricia Saullo***Family and****Consumer Science***Kathleen Sacks**Jean Vause***Health***Charles DeVito**Melissa Gregg***Mathematics***Stephanie Bruhn**Deborah Capullo**Maureen Conway**Linda Crusan**Meredith Eberz**Robert Higgins**Brett Hilko**Danielle Hunt**Greg Massaroni**Scott Seligman**Karen Smith***Music***Nicole Gabriel**Daniel Jones**Kimberly Kondenar**Gail Sparlin***Physical Education***Charles DeVito**John Karbowski**Lori Moore**Kevin Olsen**Nikki Steele**Marc Vachon***Science***Dawn Aulita**Sara Bach**Adam Barr**Katie Bartone**William Clayton**Brian Galati**Jennifer Gribben**Jamie Hanlon**Lisa Keating**Ann Panetta**Lua Rafalak**Nicole Zablony***Social Studies***Rebecca Bartlett**Kevin Clough**Mark Dicocco**Cory Gregg**Dennae Hughes**Malachi Martin**Colleen Organ**Priscilla Perry**Scott Sabourin**Brian Shaffer**Ann VonStetina**Autumn Wallace***Special Education***Stephanie Arnold**Cathy Heeseman**Nancy Joseph**Martha Mallon**Ben Pierson**Katie Pierson**Erica Restifo***Technology***Robert Buehler**Margaret Kelliher**George Reluzco*

academics

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SERVICES (AIS)

The faculty and staff at the high school are committed to helping all students succeed in challenging course work. A wide range of Academic Intervention Services are provided to students who are deemed to be at-risk of *not* meeting the Regents standards by graduation.

At the high school, AIS includes: grade-level instructional teams; academic intervention labs; Regents-prep review classes; and academic monitoring

Counselors and social workers are also available to help at-risk students deal with peripheral issues that may be getting in the way of their school success. Of course, students can always stay after school to work with teachers during activity period from 2:20-2:50 p.m., Tuesdays-Fridays.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES

Mohonasen offers Advanced Placement (AP) courses in:

- Biology
- US History
- World History
- Calculus
- English Literature
- Physics

AP courses expose students to college-level coursework while still in high school. The subject matter is very challenging and students who take these courses typically say it makes for a smoother transition to college.

Another benefit to taking AP classes is that students can earn college credit for these courses – IF they score a 3 or better on the final AP exam. (Some colleges require a higher score.)

Most AP classes at Mohonasen require certain prerequisites and/or grade point averages, so check with your counselor for details. All AP courses are weighted by a factor of 1.05. For more on course weighting, visit page 10.

While there is no fee for the courses, the AP exams typically cost about \$80. Students enrolled in the courses are required to register for the AP exam in the fall and take the exams in May.

ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES & TARDINESS

As standards are raised, students really can't afford to miss school. Even the best students will quickly fall behind when attendance drops or there is chronic tardiness.

Our attendance policy focuses on getting all students to school punctually and attending their classes with consistency. The new policy also includes a number of actions to be taken by the school in response to students who are chronically tardy or illegally absent. Please remember that students who are consistently illegally absent from school do risk losing credit for classes.

The school needs your support in ensuring that students arrive to school on time and attend all of their classes. If you have any questions about the attendance status of your student/students please do not hesitate to call the office or check online using the parent access feature, SchoolTool.

WRITTEN EXCUSES ARE NOW REQUIRED WITHIN THREE DAYS –

Students in grades K-12 who are absent from school must submit a written excuse, signed by a parent/legal guardian, within three days of the student's return or their attendance record will permanently reflect an unexcused absence after this time (i.e., no backdating of excuses will be allowed after three days). The excuse should indicate the reason for and the date(s) of the absence.

DENIAL OF COURSE CREDIT FOR CHRONIC UNEXCUSED ABSENCES –

In grades 9-12, students may not be awarded course credit in any class that is required for graduation if they miss more than 15 percent of class time due to unexcused absences, tardiness or early dismissals. And keep in mind that attendance is now taken on a class-by-class basis – not only at the start of the school day.

The maximum number of unexcused absences will be:

- Full-credit courses meeting every day – 27
- Full-credit courses meeting every other day – 13
- Full-credit science courses with a lab – 20
- Half-credit courses meeting every other day – 6

For summer school, the same general attendance policy applies. Missed instruction calculations are based upon both class tardies and class absences.

The difference between “excused” and “unexcused”

Absences, tardiness and early departures will be considered excused or unexcused according to the following standards:

- *Excused:* Absences due to personal illness, family illness or death, medical/dental appointments, impassable roads due to inclement weather, religious observances, quarantine, required court appearances, approved college visits, approved cooperative-work programs, military obligations or other special circumstances approved by the district.
- *Unexcused:* Any absence that does not fit the above categories, e.g., family vacation, hunting, babysitting, hair cut, obtaining a learner's permit, taking a road test, oversleeping, etc.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

There are a wide variety of scholarships – both local and national – that students can apply for to help fund their college education.

All seniors are **STRONGLY** encouraged to make weekly checks of the scholarship board in the Counseling and Career Center. Criteria and application deadlines are provided for each scholarship.

Contrary to popular opinion, not all scholarships are designed for students with a 90+ average. There are many





ACADEMICS – continued

opportunities for students who take the initiative to seek out scholarships and apply. Applications range from a one-page essay to four-page applications with an essay, financial statement and transcript.

Mohonasen students who are selected for awards/scholarships are recognized at the annual high school awards ceremony in June.

There are many local scholarships awarded to Mohonasen graduates each year. Most of them are publicized on the scholarship board in the Counseling and Career Center and on the high school guidance webpage.

Students and parents should also check with their employer(s) to see if there are any scholarships that they may qualify for. If you're a member of a club or other organizations, there may be scholarships you can tap into.

Finally, the Internet is a great way to find information on scholarships. Here are a few sites to check out:

- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.finaid.org
- www.hesc.org

AWARDS CEREMONIES

Mohonasen High School recognizes student accomplishments in several ceremonies each year. The school tries to notify parents in advance when their son or daughter is going to receive an award so that they can be present to share in the celebration. Dates, times and locations for awards ceremonies are published in the annual district calendar, which is mailed home at the start of each school year.

The following are typically scheduled during evening hours in late May to mid-June:

- Academic Awards Ceremony
- Athletic Awards Banquet
- Music Awards Ceremony

The Academic Letter Award Ceremony recognizes academic achievement of students from the previous school year and is held in November of each year.

BAND PROGRAM

Students who are members of the band earn one unit of credit per year. However, it is important to know that membership in Mohonasen's band involves a significant "extracurricular" commitment of time and energy beyond the regular school day.

Band membership requires participation in both:

- **Marching Band** – Students gain experience in marching techniques, preparation and performance at all home football games, pep rallies, parades and competitive field shows. Students are required to attend "Band Camp" (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.) the last two weeks of August.

- **Concert Band** – Students study and experience repertoire and performance, preparation and presentation at assemblies and concerts. Students with outstanding musical abilities will be selected for placement in the following groups on a non-credit extracurricular basis: select band; stage band; ensembles; participation in Suburban Scholastic Council music functions; participation in NYSSMA solo competition; area all-state and all-state bands.

There are also "select" groups offered for the orchestra and choir programs. For more on the entire music program, see *Mohonasen's High School Course of Study Guide*, available on the high school guidance webpage at www.mohonasen.org.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

The Mohonasen School District will work in partnership with parents to maintain a learning and work environment that supports the character development of its students. Character development will reflect and reinforce core ethical values such as honesty, tolerance, personal responsibility, respect for others, observance of laws and rules, courtesy and dignity. Use of profane or offensive language will not be tolerated. Respect for others is expected.

Students are encouraged to get involved in the student government and in the many school-sponsored clubs, activities and service projects that support both positive character development and community building.

CLASS RANKING

Mohonasen's system of grade point averages is used to determine:

- Graduation rank and class rank
- Honor Society candidacy
- Gold, Silver and Bronze Honor Rolls
- "Gold Card" privileges
- College admission
- Other scholastic awards

All full-year courses count equally toward a student's Grade Point Average (GPA); half-year courses have a ".5" multiplier. All subjects with numerical grades – excluding physical education – are included in the computation. Any high school coursework completed in grade 8 will be in the first computed GPA for grade 9. Additionally, courses with a weighted designation are weighted as such. See page 10 for more information.

– Continued on next page



ACADEMICS – continued

For example, the following student would have a GPA of 88.73 based on these grades:

Math:.....	90	Full Year Counts as:	90
Earth Science:.....	85	Full Year Counts as:	85
Social Studies:.....	88	Full Year Counts as:	88
English:.....	94	Full Year Counts as:	94
French:.....	87	Full Year Counts as:	87
Health.....	88	Half Year Counts as:	44
Phys. Ed.:.....	92	Not Counted in GPA	–
		Sum of Above =	488
		÷ 5.5 (classes)	
		GPA =	88.73

Report cards will report each student's GPA for that quarter. The fourth quarter report card will show both the 4th-quarter GPA **and** the GPA for the entire school year.

All students in a graduating class are ranked together. The final senior ranking for eight semesters will be computed and forwarded to colleges and/or employers upon request.

Note: Mohonasen no longer names a valedictorian or salutatorian. Instead, the top 10 graduates of each class are recognized. This ranking is calculated using a seven-semester average, as are the awards presented at the Academic Awards Ceremony.

COLLEGE CREDIT FOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

Mohonasen offers several ways to earn college credit for courses offered at the high school. These include:

•ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) COURSES –

Accelerated students or high-achieving students may earn college credit from AP courses. These courses are extremely challenging and will help prepare students for the rigorous demands of four-year colleges. In order to qualify for college credit, students must score a 3 or better on the final AP exam – although higher scores may be required by some colleges. Students enrolled in AP courses are expected to take the AP exams.

•SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (SCCC) COURSES –

Mohonasen offers several senior English, foreign language and business courses, in which students simultaneously earn high school and college credit at SCCC. These courses are free for Mohonasen students and are a great way for students to start earning college credit. Credits may be transferable to other colleges. Courses are taught at Mohonasen by the high school faculty and vary from year to year. Talk to your counselor to find out more.

•PLTW (Project Lead the Way) Courses –

These are pre-engineering courses that follow the curriculum of RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology) classes. Students must earn a minimum grade in both the course and on the RIT exam to qualify for credit. Students may then decide whether or not they will pay for the credits. The approximate cost is \$200 per course. As always, students should check with potential colleges to make sure that the credits will transfer.

THE COUNSELING AND CAREER CENTER (A.K.A. “THE GUIDANCE OFFICE”)

All high school students are assigned a school counselor to work with them throughout their high school years.

Once each year, students and counselors meet for a formal annual review. However, students should feel free to contact their counselor *any* time they have questions or need assistance. Counselors are also available to talk with students about family difficulties, peer relationships, drug and alcohol decisions or other personal concerns. (Also see information about the Student Assistance Counselor, page 31)

Appointments should be made through the secretaries who work in the Counseling and Career Center.

Students are also encouraged to visit the waiting area of the Counseling and Career Center to get all kinds of useful information such as local job openings, college catalogs, scholarship applications, SAT test dates and more.

The Betty Jarvis Career Center (two doors down from the Counseling and Career Center) is also a good resource for students (and parents!) who want to check out the CHOICES college and career search software package. This user-friendly computer application can help students match their interests to careers and then search for colleges that offer related degree programs. For students who would like to find out personal areas of strength, there is also a CHOICES Aptitude Assessment available in the Career Library and other computer areas in the school.

Mohonasen's Counseling and Career Center also offers a number of special evening workshops for parents to attend each year with their teen. The programs are advertised on the district calendar and website. They typically include:

- **College Workshop for Juniors**
(Juniors and their parents)
- **Financial Planning for College**
(Parents of students in grades 9-11)
- **Filling out College Financial Aid Forms**
(Seniors and their parents)
- **High School Information Night**
(Parents and students in grade 8)
- **SUNY College Information Night**
(Juniors and their parents)
- **Senior Information Night**
(Seniors and their parents)
- **College Essay Writing Workshop**
(Seniors and their parents)



ACADEMICS – continued

COURSE LOAD

All Mohonasen High School students are required to take a minimum of six courses plus physical education each semester. However, students are encouraged to select as many courses as their schedule and ability allow. Seniors in good academic standing are allowed to take five courses plus physical education.

COURSE SELECTION

In many ways, high school is becoming more like college, where students can customize their course of study to reflect individual interests and career goals. The result is that students at Mohonasen High School have more choices in their coursework (particularly after grade 9) than ever before.

Choices in coursework are explained in greater detail in the Mohonasen High School Course of Study Guide. Copies can be obtained in the Counseling and Career Center or accessed online at www.mohonasen.org.

Parents and students are encouraged to be proactive about calling or making appointments with their guidance counselor *whenever* they have questions about which courses they can choose from and which would best serve their future goals. Counselors recognize that some parents want more input and information than others. However, parent involvement is *always* encouraged and accommodated.

In general, here's what students and parents can expect at each grade level when it comes to selecting high school courses:

- **EIGHTH GRADE** – Parents are invited – along with their son or daughter – to an evening high school information program – usually held in January or February. Students and parents are invited to a freshman orientation session, usually scheduled the week before school starts.

High school counselors meet with students in small groups in January or February to provide an orientation to high school and explain what choices they have in courses. Students make preliminary course requests and these are mailed home for parents to sign off on.

- **NINTH GRADE** – This is a key year for developing a game plan for the rest of high school. Counselors invite every ninth grader *and* his or her parents to a personal conference sometime in March or April. Each conference lasts about 40 minutes.

In addition to selecting courses for tenth grade, the discussion focuses on a review of current academic performance, long- and short-term goals and methods of career exploration available to students.

The freshman conference is also a good opportunity for parents to personally meet with their child's counselor, give input into course selection and set the stage for a productive working relationship that will last straight through to graduation.

A preliminary list of course requests is mailed home for parent approval in May.

- **TENTH & ELEVENTH GRADE** – At both sophomore and junior meetings, counselors will cover topics on academic advisement, career planning and individual options for the following year. Parents are not specifically called in at this time, but they're always welcome to call and request to participate.

- **TWELFTH GRADE** – Most, if not all, course selection for the final year of high school is completed in the eleventh grade. Students will still have ample interaction with their counselors as seniors, but the emphasis switches to graduation and making a successful transition to college and/or the workplace.

High School Registration

At the high school there is an entire week dedicated to students selecting their courses for the following year. This is called Course Registration. The process occurs during late fall for 9th, 10th and 11th grade students. During the first two days, as students move through their day, teachers will set aside a portion of the block to discuss course options and make recommendations. This will occur in both core academic areas and elective areas.

In addition, all students will be exposed to elective options via videos and/or live presentations. All teachers are available for additional questions period 10 during the week.

Students are encouraged to bring their course selection sheets home after Day 2 for parental input. During days 3 and 4 students will meet with counselors in large group settings to go over selections, check credits, answer questions and collect sheets.

What if I change my mind about the courses I selected?

Students sometimes express concern that they may be locked into taking the courses planned out earlier in the year. Students actually have until the end of May to change their minds with regard to course selections.

What if I don't get the course(s) that I wanted?

The actual scheduling of students into classes is a very complex procedure that cannot be finalized until the close of the summer school session each August. (Students receive their schedules on the first day of school)

Every effort is made to place students in the classes they request, but some scheduling conflicts are inevitable. Sometimes a course gets cut due to low enrollment. Or, if a student selects multiple courses that are only offered one period each day, they are not always able to fit every elective into their schedule. That's why counselors ask students to rank their choice of electives from most important to least. When in doubt, contact your counselor as soon as possible if there are problems or concerns with your final schedule.

COURSE WEIGHTING

In addition to the class ranking calculations (page 8), there are several courses that are weighted at the high school. Weighting means that certain higher level courses



ACADEMICS – continued

will be multiplied by either 1.025 or 1.05 depending on the course. For example, a grade of an 80 in AP English would be multiplied by 1.05 and would calculate as an 84. This weighted grade would be used toward the student's weighted GPA and class rank. The weighted average would also be used for honor roll and honor society eligibility.

The courses with a 1.025 multiplier are English 9H, English 10H, English 11H, Earth Science H and Chemistry H, as well as SCCC College Composition, SCCC English Literature and SCCC Philosophy. All AP (Advanced Placement) courses receive the 1.05 multiplier (please see page 7 for a listing of all AP courses).

CURRICULUM MAPS

Throughout the Mohonasen School District, teachers and administrators have K-12 “curriculum maps,” which outline what will be taught in each subject area, at each grade level, at generally consistent times during the school year.

These maps help all teachers navigate the twists and turns of an increasingly rigorous curriculum while making smoother connections from one grade level to the next. The maps will also allow parents to see – at a glance – precisely what their child will be taught at each grade level, in each course, at generally consistent times in the school year. The maps will evolve over time, reflecting continuous efforts to refine and improve curriculum district-wide.

For more about curriculum maps or for links to maps in math, science, social studies and English, visit the academics page on the district website at www.mohonasen.org.

DRIVER EDUCATION

Mohonasen offers a Driver Education course during the summer recess to students who will be 16-years old or older as of July 1. The program is offered in conjunction with the summer school program and advance registration is required. No school credit is given for the course. Students must have either their driver's permit or license to participate.

Students who complete the course receive a Department of Motor Vehicles certificate, which fulfills their required six-hour prelicensing class, allows them to drive after 9 p.m. and may qualify them for a discount on auto insurance. Last, but certainly not least, the course is also designed to make students better – and safer – drivers.

Preregistration is typically held mid-May. Students should listen to the morning announcements for details.

Once a preregistration form is filled out and returned, students are officially in the “pool” of applicants. *Demand almost always exceeds the number of students that can be accommodated.* Preference is given to seniors, then juniors and then sophomores, in that order. Within grades, selection is first-come/first-served. Students who fail one or more core subjects will not be allowed to register for this course.

Students will be notified by letter in June if they've been enrolled in the course or placed on a waiting list. Additional

details for registration will be given at that time.

Mohonasen's driver education classes run Monday through Friday for five weeks beginning right around the 4th of July holiday. Each week students attend both classroom lecture and small group driving sessions. Three days a week there is a morning class for all students followed by small group driving sessions with the instructor. Schedules for the driving sessions are not finalized until the start of class. Students who miss *any* scheduled classes or driving sessions will not be eligible to receive the motor vehicle certificate, so work and vacation schedules should be planned accordingly. The fees involved for Driver Education are comparable to local driving schools.

DROPPING A COURSE

Students should plan their courses carefully since dropping courses after school begins is discouraged and school permission may be difficult to obtain. Withdrawal from a required course is never permitted.

To drop a course, a special add/drop form must be secured from the teacher, completed and signed by the student, teacher, counselor, department administrator, principal and parent(s) in the order listed on the form.

No student will be allowed to drop a full-year course after 12 weeks or a half-year course after 7 weeks. All paperwork must be completed and handed in prior to these deadlines.

EARLY GRADUATION

Students who would like to complete their graduation requirements one year or one semester ahead of time should speak to their counselor about the process for requesting permission for early graduation.

GOLD CARDS

Students in grades 10-12 who earn at least an 85 average, have no unexcused absences and have no suspensions, are eligible for High School Gold Cards. Gold Cards are issued on a quarterly basis. First quarter Gold Card privileges are based on 4th-quarter grades, *not* final averages.

Students with Gold Cards are given privileges within the building, and are eligible for discounts at sporting events and local businesses who participate in this program.



ACADEMICS – continued

GRADING

The high school uses a numerical system of 1-100 for grading students, which translates as follows:

97-100	=	3.90-4.00	A+
93-96	=	3.75-3.89	A
90-92	=	3.50-3.74	A-
87-89	=	3.25-3.49	B+
83-86	=	3.00-3.24	B
80-82	=	2.75-2.99	B-
77-79	=	2.50-2.74	C+
73-76	=	2.25-2.49	C
70-72	=	2.00-2.24	C-
65-69	=		D
64 and below	=		F

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

There are currently three diploma options for Mohonasen students. All students are expected to challenge themselves and attain the highest degree possible.

Below are the graduation and testing requirements for the class of 2012 and beyond. Anyone with questions should contact their counselor.

- 4 years English
- 4 years social studies
- 3 years math
- 3 years science
- 1/2 credit in health
- 1 credit in foreign language (3 for Advanced Regents)
- 1 credit in art or music
- 2 credits in physical ed.
- **Minimum 22.5 credits**

Regents Diploma :

Minimum score of 65 required on all exams.

- Integrated Algebra
- 1 Science Regents
- Global History Regents
- U.S. History Regents
- English Regents

Advanced Regents Diploma

All of the above exams plus additional tests listed below, with minimum score of 65 required

- 2 additional Math Regents
- 1 additional Science Regents
- Foreign Language Exam *

**A five unit sequence in art or occ. ed. may be substituted for the foreign language sequence and exams*

Students who have a 90 or better average for all of their Regents exams will be awarded a “with honors” distinction with their Regents or Advanced Regents Diplomas.

Local Diploma

A local diploma is only available to students with disabilities. See page 37 for details.

HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION

Homebound instruction – or home tutoring – is a service that schools are required to provide to students who are unable to attend school due to medical, emotional or disciplinary problems.

High school students who qualify for homebound instruction may receive two hours of home tutoring per subject up to 10 hours per week for all subjects.

If the inability to attend school is due to a medical condition, parents should call their child’s guidance counselor as soon as possible and provide a written medical request for homebound instruction from the child’s physician. The counselor will then submit the doctor’s note along with additional paperwork to the superintendent of schools for approval of home tutoring.

Once approval is given, the counselor will secure tutors for each of the child’s core subjects. The turnaround time between providing the doctor’s note to the counselor and tutors contacting the family is at least 48 hours.

HOMEWORK

Homework helps students practice and reinforce what they learned in class. It also teaches self discipline and responsibility.

Depending on the course, homework can account for up to 20 percent of a student’s grade. Students who regularly complete their homework will do better in class and on the Regents exams, which are required for graduation. It’s that simple – and that important.

Mohonasen recommends high school students devote, on average, one to two hours for homework each day – with certain advanced-level courses demanding more.

Homework and Absences

It is the responsibility of each student to record and complete homework assignments – even when he or she is absent from school. With a little planning and follow through, students can avoid falling behind. Here are a few pointers for staying on top of homework:

- Get in the habit of writing down the entire week’s assignments if your teacher posts them in advance. That way, you’ll already know the homework if you’re absent.
- Check out the district website at www.mohonasen.org. A growing number of teachers put homework assignments, research links, etc. on their webpages.

ACADEMICS – continued

- Find a reliable friend in each class that you can call for homework information when you're sick. (Offer to do the same for him or her, too!)
- Know each teacher's rules (including deadlines!) for making up missed classwork.
- The first day back to school from an absence – even if it was only one day – plan to stay after school (period 10) to talk to each of your teachers about getting notes and/or missed assignments and to arrange a schedule with the teacher for turning in missed work. (Then resolve to follow through!)
- Students who are going to be absent for three or more days should call the attendance office at 356-8315 to ask for their back homework. Work will be available 24 hours after the attendance office is contacted.
- Students who will be out for an extended period, may – with a doctor's note – be eligible for home tutoring. In some cases a student may be asked to remain after school with the teacher to complete overdue homework. If this request is made, it takes precedence over all other school activities.

HONOR ROLLS

Four times each year, after report cards are issued, an honor roll is released based upon grades received during the preceding quarter. All grades – excluding PE – are counted in computing honor roll standings.

- **Gold Honor Roll** will be awarded to students who achieve a grade point average of 95 or above.
- **Silver Honor Roll** will be awarded to students who achieve a grade point average of 90 to 94.
- **Bronze Honor Roll** will be awarded to students who achieve a grade point average of 85 to 89.

GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR CHILD'S HIGH SCHOOL CAREER

There are many things parents can do to get involved in their child's education. These include:

- ✓ Talk to your child about school every day.
- ✓ Ask to see your child's grades and homework.
- ✓ Contact your child's teachers regularly. Increased communication between parents and teachers helps lead to academic success.
- ✓ Join the PTSO or donate time to school events.
- ✓ Set parameters for your child regarding things like free time, computer use and curfews.

MOHONASEN PARENT ACCESS: SCHOOLTOOL

All high school parents can take advantage of the parent access feature, SchoolTool. Through this online tool, parents can view their child's attendance, academic and discipline records from their home or office computer. To sign up or learn more, please contact the high school main office.

WEBSITE FOR MOHONASEN www.mohonasen.org

The Mohonasen School District website continues to provide news and information on all kinds of topics – from what's making news in the district to what's for lunch each day.

The high school has its own section on the district website and many teachers have classroom or department-level pages where visitors can learn about homework policies, see student work or find helpful instructional links.

Things you'll find on Mohonasen's website include:

- School news and important reminders
 - Teacher and department-level webpages
 - Athletic news and sports schedules
 - An alumni directory and class reunion news
 - Information about swim classes for kids and adults
 - School closing information
 - Monthly lunch and breakfast menus
 - Board of Education news, meeting agendas and minutes of prior meetings
 - A district calendar and staff directory
 - Course of Study Guide
 - Summer College Course Opportunities
- Information is updated frequently so check in regularly!

SCHOOL NEWS NOTIFIER

SNN is a free, opt-in e-mail and text message alert system that parents and residents can sign up for to receive important news and information from the district. With SNN, officials send updates and reminders about activities and information about school closings and delays. You can choose to receive any or all of the alerts and you can unsubscribe at any time. To sign up, visit the district's website, www.mohonasen.org.

“LIKE” US ON FACEBOOK

Mohonasen parents and students can now receive district news and information through Facebook. “Like” us today by visiting www.facebook.com/Mohonasen.





ACADEMICS – continued

HONOR SOCIETIES

Business and Marketing Honor Society of New York State

- Advisor: Margaret Morelli
- Eligibility: Juniors and seniors who have taken at least three business courses and have an overall average of 85 percent or higher in those courses. Students' cumulative average at the time of induction must be 85 percent or above. A student's disciplinary record is also taken into account.

French National Honor Society

- Advisors: Patrick Keagan
- Meetings: announced a week or two in advance
- Eligibility: Open to sophomores, juniors and seniors. Students must have a cumulative average of 90 percent or better in French for six semesters as well as an 85 percent average or better in all other subjects. A student's disciplinary record is also taken into account. Once inducted, FNHS participates in events such as dining at area French restaurants and fundraising.

Mathematics Honor Society (MHS)²

- Advisors: Brett Hilko & Linda Crusan
- Eligibility: Juniors and seniors who maintain enrollment in a mathematics class, and have at least a 90 percent mathematics and an 85 percent scholastic average will be eligible for induction. It is the mission of the (MHS)² to recognize mathematical achievement and to involve its members in activities designed to enhance their mathematical knowledge and the mathematical knowledge of all Mohonasen High School students.

National Honor Society

- Advisor: Greg Massaroni
- Meetings: Monthly
- Eligibility: Juniors/Seniors

Students must be in attendance at Mohonasen for at least one semester. They must have a cumulative high school average of at least 90 percent at the end of their sophomore and junior years to apply. Membership is also based on:

- ✓ **Leadership** – participation in at least two school activities in two different school years;
- ✓ **Scholarship** – maintaining an exceptional cumulative average;
- ✓ **Character** – a record free of disciplinary infractions; and
- ✓ **Service** – participation in a community service (either civil or religious) for which no payment is received. Note: Service must have been completed prior to application to the Honor Society.

Science Honor Society

- Advisor: Lua Rafalak & Dawn Aulita
- Meetings: Generally monthly; announced in advance
- Eligibility: Students must have completed three semesters of high school science. A minimum scholastic average of 85 percent with a minimum science average of 90 percent and a minimum math average of 85 percent must be maintained. No major disciplinary infractions allowed.
- Activities: Guest speakers, educational field trips, student tutoring program and fundraising.

Spanish Honor Society

- Advisors: Heather Clikeman & Nancy Butz
- Eligibility: Students in grades 11-12. Must have a 90 percent average in Spanish over six quarters and an overall average of 85 percent or higher in all subjects. SHS participates in such activities as going to dinner at area Hispanic restaurants, field trips to cultural events, and fundraising for induction.

Tri-M Music Honor Society

- Advisors: Kim Kondenar
- Eligibility: The Tri-M Music Honor Society is designed to recognize students for their academic and musical achievements, reward them for their accomplishments and service activities, and to inspire other students to excel at music and leadership. Through more than 4,500 chartered chapters, Tri-M has helped thousands of young people provide years of service through music in schools throughout the world. Students will be made aware of opportunities to apply through their music teachers.



ACADEMICS – continued

INTERIM REPORTS TO PARENTS

There are four marking periods in the regular school year. Report cards are issued a few weeks after the close of each marking period. Interim reports are mailed home to the parents of all students approximately halfway through each marking period. Combined, parents can expect eight written reports on their child's progress in a typical school year. Specific dates are noted on Mohonasen's annual district calendar that is mailed home at the end of August.

Parents are advised to note these dates and to be on the lookout for these reports. If, for any reason, they fail to receive a scheduled report, a duplicate can easily be issued by calling their child's guidance counselor at 356-8322 or by accessing SchoolTool.

LIBRARY

The library hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each school day. The library is to be used for research, borrowing books, use of computers or reading. Students using the library are expected to work quietly.

Materials in the library circulate for a specific period of time, generally two weeks. All students wishing to borrow materials must check them out at the library desk.

Students are expected to be responsible and courteous of the needs of others and return library materials on time. Lost or damaged materials must be replaced at the expense of the borrower.

To use the library during an assigned study hall, the following guidelines should be observed.

1. Permission to sign out of a study hall in order to go to the library must be signed by the study hall supervisor. Students with pre-signed passes from a subject area teacher will be given preference.
2. Students must sign the library sign-out sheet prior to leaving an assigned study hall and indicate the activity to be performed in the library. This includes students with pre-signed passes.
3. Students must report to the library *directly* from study hall or classes and sign in/out from that location.
4. Students must obtain presigned passes in order to access the library.

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parents may make appointments for conferences with teachers and/or their child's guidance counselor by calling the Counseling and Career Center any time they have questions or concerns. School officials may also call parents to request a conference as needed.

If a parent or student is unhappy with an interim report or report card, a conference can help get at the root of the problem. However, often a phone call or e-mail directly to the teacher(s) can resolve the issue.

A conference is also a good opportunity to set up an

improvement plan. In almost all instances high school students will be expected to participate.

Guidance counselors can set up and facilitate a group conference involving one or more teachers. The focus is always on problem-solving — not playing a “blame game.”

Most people, including students, say they feel relieved at the end of a conference. That's because once the nature of the problem is clearly understood, it's much easier to address it — particularly when everyone is working *together*.

Keep in mind things don't have to be desperate before parents step in. Any drop in grades is a good reason to call the school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Every student in grades 9-12 must successfully complete a half-unit of physical education each year of attendance to qualify for graduation. These units are in addition to those credits necessary for a Regents or local diploma.

Students receive a numerical grade each quarter for physical education. Grades are based on preparation, participation and performance. Students who miss P.E. classes or are unprepared can make up classes during Period 10 on selected days.

Appropriate dress for P.E. classes includes sneakers, T-shirts and shorts or sweatpants.

Swimming and P.E.

All 9th graders complete a required 5-week swimming unit in the pool during their P.E. class. To the degree scheduling allows, boys and girls are separated for the swim unit. Various elective aquatic units are also offered to meet yearly P.E. requirements.

While in the pool, girls must wear one-piece swim suits; swim trunks are required for boys (no cutoffs). White T-shirts may be worn over bathing suits and girls can wear nylon shorts over their swim suits. Students must supply their own towels.

Medical excuses and P.E.

Students who are unable to participate in physical education for any reason will need a signed note stating their limitations from their doctor. Students will be given a zero grade for each missed day unless they submit this written medical excuse to the school nurse. If a student ends the school year with a medical excuse, he or she needs to submit either a new excuse or a release note from their physician for the next school year. Students will complete



ACADEMICS – continued

written work as prescribed by the P.E. teacher while out on a medical excuse.

PROMOTION AND RETENTION OF STUDENTS

Promotion in grades nine through twelve depends on the number of credits a student has accumulated and the number of constants (English, math, science and social studies) passed. Any questions about a student's grade-level status should be referred to the guidance counselor.

- **To be considered a sophomore:** students must have a minimum of four credits toward graduation and have passed at least one unit of English or social studies.
- **To be considered a junior:** students must have a minimum of eight and one half credits toward graduation and have passed two units of either English or social studies, and at least one year of the other. Students must also have passed at least one year of math and science.
- **To be considered a senior:** students must be able to be scheduled to complete all of their required course work by June and earn at least 22.5 credits.

REQUESTS AND NON-REQUESTS FOR TEACHERS

A student or parent may relay a preference for a particular teacher but this in no way guarantees that the match will work out when student schedules are created in August. Quite simply, there are just too many variables when it comes to scheduling students, courses and teachers to be able to promise a particular teacher.

Students or parents may put in a NON-request for a particular teacher if the student and/or a sibling has had the teacher before. There is no guarantee that a non-request can always be honored, for the same scheduling issues outlined above.

If a senior has failed a senior English or social studies course, they are not eligible to retake the same course with that teacher if another course or teacher is available.

STANDARDIZED TESTS (FOR COLLEGE APPLICATION)

Students are advised (and in many cases, required) to take certain standardized tests in order to apply to colleges. Following is a summary of the major tests:

- The **SAT** (Scholastic Aptitude Test) measures critical reading and math reasoning abilities as well as writing ability – not just the amount of information accumulated in school. It is required by most colleges to be considered for admission and most students take it in their junior year. There are also a series of **SAT Subject Tests** that measure knowledge in content-specific subject areas such as languages, science, social studies, math, etc. The SAT

Subject Tests are recommended for highly motivated and/or accelerated students.

- The **PSAT** is designed to prepare students for the SAT. It is typically taken early in the fall of the junior year. It measures aptitude in math, critical reading and writing abilities and is used by colleges to predict success at their institution. The PSAT is the only way to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

- The **ACT** (American College Test) is required for admission at many colleges and is typically taken in the junior and/or senior year. It measures English, math, and science reasoning. It also contains an optional writing section that we strongly encourage students to take.

- The **PLAN** is an in-school assessment that all students are strongly encouraged to take in the fall of their sophomore year. It is a practice test for the ACT and is designed to benefit all students, whether they plan to enter the work-place right after high school or go to college. It includes a career interest inventory and measures aptitude in English, science reasoning and math. All students who take the PLAN receive a report that identifies their academic strengths and weaknesses, explores career interests and outlines goals and educational training needed to pursue those interests.

All of the preceding tests require preregistration and many are offered at multiple times throughout the year. The PLAN and PSAT are offered in-house at Mohonasen; the SAT and ACT are offered at designated testing centers. Where possible, dates are publicized in advance on the district calendar and on the district website calendar. All require a fee, generally ranging from \$10 to \$60.

SUMMER READING

All students entering grades 9-12 are required to complete a summer reading assignment for English. Details about the reading assignment are generally sent home in June and posted on the district website at www.mohonasen.org.

ACADEMICS – continued

SUMMER SCHOOL

The school district offers a growing range of programs each summer – including enrichment classes, sports camps, driver education, swim classes and, of course, the traditional classes for students who failed one or more courses during the regular school year or wish to improve their grade in a subject.

There are also limited opportunities for review classes for students retaking Regents Exams.

What follows is some general information about Mohonasen’s traditional summer school program:

- **Registration:** There is a processing fee for Mohonasen students. Out-of-district students must pay the processing fee plus a tuition fee per course.
- **Withdrawal:** Students who withdraw within the first five days of the beginning of summer school will be entitled to a 50 percent refund in tuition only.
- **Attendance:** Daily attendance is necessary if students are going to be successful. In summer school, there is virtually no opportunity for makeup work, so attendance – every day – is imperative.
- **Calendar:** Summer school typically begins right after Independence Day and runs for five weeks, ending in the first half of August. A detailed calendar and list of courses is drawn up each spring and can be obtained from your guidance counselor. There are only two periods in the summer schedule, which means students can take no more than two classes. The first period class traditionally runs from 7:40 to 9:36 a.m. and the second period from 9:45 to 11:41 a.m.
- **Transportation:** Students are responsible for their own transportation to and from summer school. Bicycle racks are available to students at their own risk. (Bike locks are strongly advised.) Students driving to and from school must park in the student parking lot.
- **Discipline:** Students referred to the office for disciplinary reasons risk suspension and jeopardize their chances of successfully completing the summer requirements.
- **Grading Policy:** Students taking a 45-hour course in summer school can no longer “replace” their grade from the regular school year. The two grades are now averaged together for a final score with each counting 50 percent. For example, a student who fails 9th-grade English with a grade of 50 and then enrolls in summer school must now earn at least an 80 for his/her summer school work in order to earn a final grade of 65 in the course. In other words – performance during the school year counts! Students who give up trying midyear may find it impossible to score high enough on their summer school work to counterbalance their end of the school year average in June.

- **Exams:** Summer schedules for local and Regents Exams are set in the spring. Students desiring to take a “walk-in” Regents Exam or Regents Competency Exam must preregister by early July.

Students or parents who have additional questions regarding the summer school program at Mohonasen should contact their guidance counselor or the summer school principal.

TUTORS

Students – or parents – who wish to obtain a private **professional tutor** can contact their guidance counselor for names of qualified tutors in various subject areas. The cost generally runs between \$20-50 per hour.

Another option – that has no cost – is to request a **peer tutor**. This request should generally be limited to students who have already been staying for period 10 help from their teacher and still feel that they need the help of a tutor. For more information, students should see their counselor.





ACADEMICS – continued

Please note that course offerings are subject to change

MOHONASEN HIGH SCHOOL *Elective Courses*

Mo-Tech

Mo-Tech is an initiative that brings practical, hands-on coursework to the campus of Mohonasen High School. The programs incorporate classroom instruction with real life experience to give students a broad view of the career area that is targeted. Programs are designed to give students a solid classroom background in the first year so that they are ready for upper-level courses and internship experiences as seniors.

Art

The curriculum of the art department is available for all students. These courses are designed to enable students to learn more about themselves and their abilities so they can succeed in school and in life. These classes will help prepare the serious art student as well as enhance the skills of all students.

Business

The business department's goals are to provide students with the knowledge and the skills necessary for college; to prepare students to directly enter the world of work; to give students information that is helpful in carrying on personal business affairs and entrepreneurship; and to prepare students to make informed economic decisions in life.

Family & Consumer Sciences

The family and consumer sciences program helps students become competent and self-reliant in managing their personal, family and work lives. It is designed to meet the needs of students interested in careers in human services, education, family services, social work, nutrition, culinary, fashion design, textiles and interior design.

Music

The goal of the music department is to give students to opportunity to find a richer life by guiding them to a better understanding of music. There are valuable courses offered in several areas of music. All students, regardless of skill level, are encouraged to participate.

Technology

Technology courses will encourage the study of materials, processes, tools, occupations, products, manufacturing, organization and research. The study of technology will provide a variety of experiences for students with varied interests and aptitudes.

Mo-Tech Courses:

- Introduction to Criminal Justice, Years 1 & 2
- Criminal Science
- Live Production
- Video Editing

Art Courses:

- Studio in Art
- Drawing & Painting
- Ceramics I
- Sculpture 1
- Advertising & Design

- Advanced Studio: Sculpture/ Ceramics

- Advanced Studio: Drawing & Painting

- Independent Study: Art

Business Courses:

- Accounting
- Business Computer Applications
- Business Law
- Career Exploration Internship Program (CEIP)
- Career Portfolio
- College Accounting

- Cooperative Work Experience
- E-Commerce
- Financial Literacy
- Intro to Business
- Principles of Marketing
- Programming I: Visual Basic
- Word Processing

Family & Consumer Science Courses:

- Housing & Environment
- Child Development I & II
- Clothing & Textiles
- Family Dynamics
- Early Childhood Education
- Lifespan Studies Core
- Food & Nutrition
- Parenting
- Childhood Education Career Exploration Internship Program
- Childhood Cooperative Work Experience

Music Courses:

- Band
- Orchestra & Select Orchestra
- Choir & Select Choir
- Music Theory
- Music Appreciation

Technology Courses:

- Intro to Engineering Design
- Principles of Engineering
- Computer Integrated Manufacturing
- Aerospace Engineering
- Digital Electronics
- Civil Engineering & Architecture
- Engineering Design & Development
- Intro. to Technology & Trades
- Basic Electric/Electronics
- Communication Systems
- Computer Applications
- Computer Aided Design I & II
- Computer Aided Manufacturing
- Materials Processing I & II
- Production Systems
- Residential Structures
- Architectural Drawing I



ACADEMICS – continued

THE CAPITAL REGION BOCES *Career & Technical School*

The Capital Region BOCES Career and Technical School (formerly known as Vo-Tec) is located on Watervliet-Shaker Road. The school offers courses and career pathways that complement and expand on those offered at Mohonasen.

Students can enroll in the Career and Technical School in their junior or senior year. They attend half of each school day at the Career and Technical School and half at Mohonasen. Bus transportation is provided by the district.

Many of the programs at the Career and Technical School are geared for students who intend to go on to two- or four-year colleges or specialized schools. Toward that end, several programs are now offered in close partnership with area colleges so that students may earn college credit for certain high school programs.

Criteria for Vo-Tech Acceptance

In order to be considered for these programs, students must meet a variety of criteria. First, students must show a genuine interest in the area they would like to pursue. They can show this interest by attending the visitation to the Career and Technical School that takes place every spring. Second, they must show a commitment to their education. Students do this with a positive attendance pattern and success in their courses. Lastly we expect students to exhibit mature, professional behavior. This goal is accomplished by keeping a clean discipline record. Students who do not meet these criteria will be in jeopardy of not being selected to attend their program of choice the following year.

Programs offered at the Career and Technical School include:

New Visions –

This one-year, honors-level program turns area businesses into classrooms for highly motivated and successful high school seniors. By applying academics to their field of study, students earn four credits, including senior-level English and social studies. Students spend up to four hours per day on-site at an area business and learn about the field

first-hand from trained professionals. New Visions currently offers programs in the following areas:

- Health
- Journalism & Media Studies
- Law and Government

Automotive Careers:

- Auto Body Repair/Refinishing
- Automotive Technology/
AYES Automotive Technician
- Medium/Heavy-Duty
Truck Repair

Business Careers:

- Computer Applications
- Fashion Merchandising
and Retail Management
- Internet Application Design
- Gaming, Multimedia & Web Design

Construction & Fabrication Careers:

- Building Trades
- Building Maintenance
- Electrical Trades
- HVAC/Heating and Refrigeration
- Welding and Metal Fabrication

Environmental Careers:

- Environmental Science
- Horticulture/Floral Design

Health Careers:

- Nurse Assistant

Service Industry Careers:

- Cosmetology
- Culinary Arts and Hospitality
- Early Childhood Education
- Law Enforcement and Security
- Lodging Management

Technical Careers:

- Computer Aided Design
and Manufacturing
- Computer and
Network Technician
- Theater Arts Technology

Other Programs:

- Programs for Students
with Special Needs
- Adult Education Programs

For more information about programs at the BOCES Career and Technical School you can visit the school's website at:

www.bocescareertech.org

and be sure to talk with your guidance counselor at Mohonasen!



college prep timeline

*A grade-by-grade
“road map” to get
you on your way!*

GRADE NINE

Welcome to high school! Ninth grade is a time for exploration, so it's important to do just that. Join clubs, sports and other school activities. Volunteer! How will you know what you're good at or what interests you if you don't try new things?

It's also important to make sure you get off to a strong start in all your courses! Students who have to repeat classes close off their options and choices in coursework/internships, etc. later down the road.

What to look for this year:

- Guidance counselors schedule personal conferences with each ninth grader during March and April to develop a high school “game plan” and select courses for tenth grade. Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this conference.
- **Late Fall:** Course Registration Process (See page 11 for details)

GRADE TEN

Things to be on the lookout for this year include:

- **October-November:** All college-bound sophomores are strongly encouraged to take the PLAN, a pretest for the ACT. The PLAN includes a career interest inventory and measures aptitude in English, social studies, science reasoning and math.
- **November or December:** Parents should attend the Financial Planning for College workshop at Mohonasen. Look for the date and time in the district calendar.
- **Late Fall:** Course Registration Process (See page 10 for details)
- **November, December & January:** Counselors meet with each student for their annual review. At this time course selections for 11th grade are finalized, academic standing is reviewed and continued career exploration is encouraged. Also

in April, highly motivated and/or accelerated students may want to sign up for the SAT Subject Tests.

- **June:** Students who have signed up to do so, take the SAT Subject Tests.

GRADE ELEVEN

- **September - October:** Sign up for and take the PSAT – a pretest for the SAT.
- **Late Fall:** Course Registration Process (See page 10 for details)
- **November or December:** Parents will want to attend the Financial Planning for College workshop, especially if they didn't attend last year.
- **January - February:** Parents and students attend SUNY College Information Night for Juniors. A local college admissions counselor is the featured speaker. Check the district calendar for the date and time.
- **January - March:** Counselors meet with every junior to do an annual review. Discussions focus on academic progress, PSAT scores, course selections for grade 12, the college selection process and career plans.
- **March - April:** Also in March/April, students should sign up for the SAT, SAT Subject Tests and ACT exams.
- **May:** Students should attend the College Fair at Hudson Valley Community College (more than 200 colleges participate).
- **May:** Students and their parents should attend the College Workshop for Juniors. Check the district calendar for date and time.
- **May - June:** Students take the SAT, SAT Subject Tests and ACT exams.
- **June - August:** Students make plans to visit colleges over the summer. Students should call for an appointment first to avoid visiting a campus when it may be closed or between semesters. An interview is advisable. Students should also be registering for SAT, SAT Subject Tests or ACT Exams that they would like to retake in the fall.

– Continued on next page

timeline...

continued

GRADE TWELVE

Congratulations! You're almost there! Your senior year will be an exciting one, focusing on making a smooth transition to college, the military or directly into the workplace.

- **September - October:** Each senior meets individually with his or her counselor to review graduation and course requirements, diploma options and post-high school plans. A college application timeline is formalized in this meeting. Retake SAT, SAT Subject Tests or ACT Exams.
- **September - October:** Students and parents attend Senior Information Night, presented by the high school counselors. Check the calendar for the date and time. Students should be requesting recommendations from teachers, counselors and other relevant adults. They must include an addressed, stamped envelope for each individual to each college applied for recommenders to send letters directly to the school. Seniors should also begin checking in regularly at the Counseling and Career Center to look for scholarship applications.
- **October:** Seniors and parents attend a college essay writing workshop presented by a college admissions counselor. Check the calendar for date and time.
- **November:** College applications should be submitted directly to your colleges during this month. Always remember to make a copy if sending a paper application, or print a copy if submitting it online. Check to see if your colleges require SAT or ACT scores sent directly from the test center. And keep checking for those scholarship applications this month! An information sheet for each college applied to needs to be submitted to the guidance counselor to ensure that transcripts and other important forms are submitted in a timely fashion.
- **December:** Make sure to complete and submit any application with a January 1 deadline. This includes requesting all transcripts and recommendations at least two weeks prior to the holiday vacation. Also this month: Pick up the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) from the Counseling and Career Center and check to see if the schools you are applying to require a CSS financial form. Check the latest college scholarship applications at www.collegeboard.com, www.FAFSA.ed.gov or www.fastweb.com.
- **January:** Attend the high school's workshop on Filling out College Financial Aid Forms. The focus is on the FAFSA – the financial aid application form that colleges use as their formula for determining financial aid. Also this month, continue the application process for college as needed, and keep checking for scholarship applications in the Counseling and Career Center!
- **January - March:** Submit your FAFSA form no earlier than January 1 and no later than March 1. If necessary, estimate the required financial information using last year's tax returns.
- **February - March:** Review and return the Student Aid Report (SAR). This form is sometimes mailed to students to clarify information provided on the FAFSA. Follow directions carefully and return as quickly as possible.
- **March:** Continue checking the Counseling and Career Center for scholarship applications. Wait for responses to college applications.
- **April:** Compare the financial aid packages that will begin arriving in the mail. It's time to select the college you're going to attend! You'll need to send in a deposit to the college you've chosen – no later than May 1.
- **June:** Congratulations graduate! You're on your way! Don't forget to register in Mohonasen's online alumni database at www.mohonasen.org. This site will help you keep in touch with classmates in the years ahead and informed about any reunions that your class may be planning.





college search websites

Useful websites to help in
your career & college admissions search



COLLEGE BOARD ON LINE

www.collegeboard.com

Click on “college search” and you’ll be connected with a database of more than 3,500 two- and four-year colleges. Choose from among 800 features to create a profile of your ideal college and, in seconds, get a list of the colleges that fit the bill. The site also includes the entire text of the latest edition of The College Handbook and lets you complete and submit admission applications online.

COLLEGE NET

www.collegenet.com

This site claims to be “the number one portal for applying to college over the Web.” CollegeNET also offers a searchable database of colleges, scholarship opportunities and academic resources. It offers a comprehensive college/university index with some interesting resources for financial aid and scholarships.

COLLEGE VIEW

www.collegeview.com

By combining a database of 3,300 two- and four-year colleges with multimedia tours, College View gives students and parents a general overview of a college, plus a direct email option for requesting additional information.

Careers and Colleges

www.careersandcolleges.com

Search colleges by state, major and a host of other factors. Take a visual tour of some colleges and ask their experts questions about the college admissions process. This site also lets you estimate your costs, locate scholarships and discover loan information. There’s a “student center,” a “parent corner” and a “sports source” that provides athletic information on the colleges of your choice.

CHOICES PLANNER

www.access.bridges.com

Mohonasen’s Counseling and Career Center offers free subscriptions to this customized website to help students make informed choices about life after high school. It’s called eChoices/BRIDGES and it gives you access to databases dealing with colleges, occupations, financial aid and much, much more. Each Mohonasen junior and senior can open a password-protected account by talking to their guidance counselor. (Students will need to get Mohonasen’s access ID and password to access the site for free.) After-school training workshops are offered throughout the school year to help students get the most out of this fully customizable program.

MY COLLEGE GUIDE

www.mycollegeguide.org

Get information on colleges via the college search page. Create a profile of yourself to send to colleges. Ask questions of their admissions experts. Get information about paying for college. Read a collection of articles about college and the admissions process.

PETERSON’S EDUCATION CENTER

www.petersons.com

Peterson’s college database is available on this webpage as is a vast amount of other useful educational and career information.

THE PRINCETON REVIEW

www.princetonreview.com

Students can search the site by a college’s name, region, state, size and cost. The Princeton Review also offers its own rating of hundreds of colleges, SAT & ACT test-prep courses, a feature that allows students to find a major that suits their personality, and all kinds of advice on applying to colleges, interview tips, admissions “secrets” and much more.



extracurricular activities

ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

THE “PASS” PROGRAM

Generally speaking, participation in interscholastic athletics has a positive impact on academic performance. However, in the event a student is failing two or three courses at either the interim reporting period or at the end of a marking period, they will automatically be placed on the “PASS Program.”

Students on the PASS Program will meet with the Athletic Director to review the expectations and requirements to continue participation in athletics. Students must stay after school every day and fill out a daily progress report that they submit to their coaches. A teacher’s signature indicating that the student completed his or her work is necessary for the form to be complete. These forms must be completed every day in order to remain eligible for their sport. At the completion of each week, teachers will submit a weekly progress report to the Athletic Director outlining the student’s progress in the classes they are currently failing. If reports indicate that no progress was made, then the student-athlete will be ineligible the following week. Eligibility runs week by week for the entire 5 weeks.

Students failing more than three courses are automatically ineligible to participate in athletics for a minimum of two weeks.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS

Mohonasen fields a wide range of interscholastic sports teams each season.

Students are eligible to play four consecutive years of athletics in high school starting with the date of entry into ninth grade. Exceptional athletes in grades seven and eight may try out for a high school team but they will need to pass a fairly rigorous athletic test of ability in order to qualify to play at the high school level.

The modified teams for football, soccer, basketball, softball, swimming, wrestling, girls volleyball and baseball are limited to grades 7-8.

When a student is participating in a sport, they are automatically held under the Athletic Code of Conduct. Parent and student-athlete will sign an awareness form signifying their review of the Athletic Code of Conduct. This indicates they will respect and abide by the district’s standards of behavior for school athletes, which are spelled out on that form.

FALL SEASON:

- **Cheerleading** – Varsity and JV
- **Cross Country** – (Boys and Girls) – Varsity, JV and Frosh
- **Football** – Varsity, JV and Modified
- **Golf** – Varsity and JV

- **Soccer** – (Boys and Girls) – Varsity, JV and Modified
- **Swimming** – (Girls) – Varsity only
- **Tennis** – (Girls) – Varsity and JV
- **Volleyball** – (Boys) – Varsity and JV and (Girls) – Varsity, JV and Modified

WINTER SEASON:

- **Cheerleading** – Varsity and JV
- **Basketball** – (Boys and Girls) – Varsity, JV, Frosh and Modified
- **Bowling** – (Boys and Girls) – Varsity
- **Ice Hockey** – Varsity only
- **Swimming** – Boys Varsity and Modified Co-ed
- **Winter Track** – (Boys and Girls) – Varsity, JV and Frosh
- **Wrestling** – Varsity, JV and Modified

SPRING SEASON:

- **Baseball** – (Boys) – Varsity, JV, Frosh and Modified
- **Softball** – (Girls) – Varsity, JV and Modified
- **Track & Field** – (Boys and Girls) – Varsity and JV
- **Tennis** – (Boys) – Varsity only





EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – continued

ATHLETIC PROGRAM continued



Meet the Coaches Night

Meet the Coaches Night is held at the start of each season to provide parents with an opportunity to gain insight into the expectations and philosophies of our athletic program. Parents will have the chance to ask questions regarding their child's athletic teams. One of the objectives of this night is to enhance the line of communication among all members of the Mohonasen athletic community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAM

Can anyone try out for a team?

All students are welcome to try out for a sport and many teams have no "cuts."

In skills-intensive sports it is very difficult for a player with little or no experience to make a team. However, all students are still welcome to try out.

How can I find out when tryouts are being held or when a team starts practice?

Tryouts and/or practices start around the same time each year for most teams. In general, fall teams begin practice mid-August, winter teams begin early November and spring sports begin early March. Within each sport, varsity teams often begin practicing a week or two earlier than their JV and modified counterparts.

Announcements about tryouts are made in school and coaches hold pre-season meetings to go over important information with prospective players.

Parents can find out about tryouts by visiting the athletics page on the Web at www.mohonasen.org. Parents are also encouraged to call the office of the Athletic Director (356-8270) for more information.

What are the rules about sports physicals... when do I need one... and where can I get one?

To play on a team, or even practice, students must — by law — have a sports physical on file with the school nurse. The physical must be dated within the past calendar year of the current sport season.

The physical can be performed by a student's family doctor, but Mohonasen's health physical form for Grades 6-12 — which is also available from the school nurse or online at www.mohonasen.org—must be filled out.

Prior to each sports season, students also have the option of having a free sports physical performed by the school physician. Students will be given advanced notice throughout the year of the physical dates.

Students must obtain and complete a Sports Packet (provided by coaches prior to each sports season).

Note: In order for all students to participate on a school sports team, a Sports Health Update Form must be filled out, signed by a parent and turned in to the school nurse. This form can also be obtained from the school nurse or at www.mohonasen.org.

If you're on a team, does that mean you get equal playing time... or for that matter, any playing time?

Rules about playing time vary from coach to coach, team to team and sport to sport.

In sports like track, for example, all students participate in at least one event at every meet. However, not every athlete travels to every special meet or invitational and students don't get to choose the events they want to participate in.

At the modified level — where the emphasis is on developing ability —

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – continued

ATHLETIC PROGRAM continued

most coaches will try to play every student for at least some portion of each game. As students progress up the competitive ladder to varsity level teams, the emphasis is more and more on winning. No team member is guaranteed playing time.

Where can I get a copy of game schedules?

Mohonasen's Athletic Office provides copies of season schedules to coaches who in turn give them to students to take home. Keep in mind, schedules do change so when in doubt, ask the coach or call the Athletic Office at 356-8270.

For your convenience, all schedules are available online at www.highschoolsports.net.

Where can I get directions to away games?

Directions to high schools that Mohonasen competes against are printed in the Athletic Handbook that parents need to sign each season. Coaches also have directions to away games.

It's important to confirm directions with the coach because games aren't always played on the high school campus in every district.

As a PARENT of a high school athlete, what's my recommended role?

Attend games, both home and away whenever possible. Be your son or daughter's biggest fan.

Remember that all the research on why kids play sports indicates that most play for the sheer enjoyment of the game. Don't put unnecessary pressure on your child to start, to star or to win a scholarship. Support them no matter what their role on the team may be. Model good sportsmanship at all games, both home and away, and keep the focus positive. Please cheer, but don't jeer.

Support the decisions of the coach. If you have questions or concerns, please speak directly to the coach – not about the coach with your child.

When are students eligible for an athletic letter?

Students are eligible to receive a varsity letter when they successfully complete a season on a varsity team. After that, students may receive a varsity pin as well as other awards.

How are intramural programs advertised? Who can take part?

High school intramurals are offered on a regular basis throughout the school year during 10th period.

Offerings vary from month to month. Activities are publicized in physical education classes, on the morning announcements and via school bulletin boards. All students are encouraged to attend as their interest and schedules allow.

Who should I contact if I have other questions?

If you have any other questions about Mohonasen's athletic program, contact Mr. Joseph Scalise, Athletic Director, by phone at 356-8270 or via email at jscalise@mohonasen.org.





EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – continued

STUDENT CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



JOIN A CLUB! GET INVOLVED!

THE ARROWHEAD

- Advisor: Kathryn Ermie
- Meetings: Once a week

The Arrowhead is the high school student newspaper. If you're an aspiring writer or you like to draw or take photos, The Arrowhead is a great way to get hands-on experience, build a portfolio and have fun at the same time! Reporters and artists are always needed.

Members of The Arrowhead staff are expected to contribute one to three articles per paper – by the necessary deadlines. Examples of past articles include editorials, sports articles, school news stories, current events, trivia, advice columns and college spotlights. New ideas are always welcome.

ART CLUB

- Advisor: TBD
- Meetings: Weekly

The art club is open to all students in grades 9-12. Meetings are held weekly to accommodate student schedules. The art club is an opportunity for students to explore the world of art in an atmosphere that is less rigorous than a formal academic program. Students will select and work on various small art projects throughout the year. The art club is focused on fundraising to support Mohonasen Art Scholarships for graduating seniors pursuing a major in art at college.

AUDIOVISUAL CLUB

- Advisor: Richard Burega
- Meetings: As announced

The Audiovisual Club provides students with opportunities throughout the year to film and broadcast various school events.

COLOR GUARD

- Advisor: Lori Marshall
- Meetings: Practice begins in July

Mohonasen's Color Guard is open to students in grades 8-12. The Guard accompanies the Marching Band at competitive field shows and parades. Guard members add a bit of pizzazz to the band by flashing and twirling batons, flags and rifles and dancing while the band performs. Members also compete against other color guards in New York State and beyond.

Students also have the option of participating in the Indoor Guard during the winter months. It is

also possible for instrumental students to participate in Color Guard.

Students are usually asked to attend meetings before the school year is over and are expected to attend practices beginning in July and participating in Band Camp, held the last two weeks of August.

HIP HOP DANCE CLUB

- Advisors: Danielle Hunt & Melissa Gregg

Students interested in honing their dance skills are welcome to attend the bi-weekly meetings. Students provide their own music and work on perfecting their hip-hop dance moves.

HISTORY CLUB

- Advisors: Denna Hughes, Tara Shellard & Autumn Ruckert

- Meetings: Monthly

The History Club's goal is to explore issues in World and American history through activities, movies, trips and discussions. Come and promote a deeper understanding of the world around us.

Available to all high school students.

IMPRESSIONS

- Advisor: Sandra Rowbo
- Meetings: Every other Monday

The Impressions staff helps design and create the high school literary magazine. Any student can join the staff, and all students (grades K-12) are encouraged to submit their poetry, stories, tributes and artwork to the magazine. The Impressions staff chooses what will be published and is responsible for the design and production of the magazine. At the end of the year, it's printed and distributed to students and staff.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

- Advisors: Margaret Sutton
- Meetings: As announced

The International Club is a forum for students who wish to learn more about other countries, customs and peoples, to explore their heritage, broaden their world view, and ultimately, to foster world peace. The club is not an honor society, and is open to all high school students who meet club criteria. Students do not have to be studying a foreign language in order to join the club. Some ideas for club activities include guest speakers, movie nights, world cuisine potlucks, field trips and much more.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR – continued

STUDENT CLUBS & ACTIVITIES continued

MASTERMINDS

- Advisors: Martha Mallon
- Meetings: Announced at least a week in advance

Masterminds is a high school version of the quiz show Jeopardy. Students test their knowledge of high school subjects, as well as pop culture by competing against schools from around the region, generally on a monthly basis beginning in December.

Students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to join the team, since a broad variety of knowledge is needed. Practice sessions are usually held a day or two in advance of each competition to help students sharpen their thinking skills. Masterminds offers a little bit of everything: competition, learning and lots of fun!

MOHON MASQUE

- Director: Kathleen Derochie
- Assistant: Nicole Gabriel
- Meetings: As announced.

“All the world’s a stage” – at least that’s what many aspiring actors and actresses might believe. Mohon Masque generally puts on two plays each year – one in late fall/early winter and a major musical production in the spring. Mohon Masque has a reputation for putting on outstanding performances with excellent attendance from loyal fans in the community.

Tryouts and rehearsals are announced at least a week in advance to give students time to prepare. Even if acting, singing and dancing aren’t for you, there are many other ways to get involved in the plays. Directing, stage crew, set building, costumes, fundraising and lighting are just a few of the behind the scenes opportunities for students.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

- Advisor: Lori Ranze
- Meetings: Each team sets its own schedule and works with a volunteer coach

Creative problem-solving comes from teamwork, cooperation and risk-taking. That’s the principle behind Odyssey of the Mind, an international problem-solving competition that is both fun and challenging.

Students team up to work on one of several open-ended problems that the international OM organization poses each year. For example, one problem may require students to build a structure that meets specific guidelines... Another problem may require a theatrical solution that is written and performed by students.

The problems are the same for all teams but the

solutions vary based on the innovation of the students involved. There is a regional competition each spring and, depending on how students score, they may proceed to the state level or beyond.

PEERS FOR PEACE

- Advisor: Diane Blinn & Adam Barr
- Meetings: Bi-weekly

Peers for Peace Diversity Club is a group committed to building a welcoming community for all students by addressing issues of intolerance. During bi-weekly meetings, club members will work together to plan school activities that promote tolerance and acceptance of all people throughout the school. New members are always welcome!

PEER MEDIATION

- Advisors: Rebecca Pauley & Diane Blinn
- Meetings: Announced in advance

Student mediators are trained to help other students resolve conflicts in a constructive, non-violent fashion. Any student can request mediation at any time during the school year. Peer mediators sit down with the students who are in conflict and help them identify the source of the problem and find lasting solutions that satisfy both parties.

Students who are interested in becoming peer mediators must attend 12 hours of training. It is a worthwhile experience for any student – particularly those interested in counseling or law careers.

SCIENCE CLUB

- Advisor: Jennifer Gribben
- Meetings: Monthly, as announced

The Mohonasen Science Club provides students with an opportunity to participate in science outside of the typical classroom setting. The club creates a forum for scientific discussion and hands-on science activities. Planned activities include area hikes/trips, spearheading recycling efforts, sponsoring guest speakers on science topics, cleaning up Mohonasen and an annual year-end trip/event.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

- Advisor: Lua Rafalak & Dawn Aulita
- Meetings: As announced

The Science Olympiad is a team of students who compete against other school districts. Students meet to develop their skills in different areas of science for the competition. The Science Olympiad is open to all students grades 9-12 with an inter-





EXTRA-CURRICULAR – continued

STUDENT CLUBS & ACTIVITIES continued



est in scientific competition. The team participates in three mini-olympiads in preparation for the regional competition in February.

SKI & SNOWBOARD CLUB

- Advisor: Rob Buehler
 - Skiing: January through March
- Whether you're an old pro or completely new to the sport, the Ski & Snowboard Club offers a chance to have fun at a sport you'll enjoy for years. Members will go skiing and/or snowboarding at various mountains in the Northeast from January into March. You can sign up for lessons and rent equipment – or bring your own gear and just plan on hitting the slopes with your friends. Round-trip transportation is provided and membership is open to students in grades 6-12.

STUDENT SENATE

- Advisors: Denna Hughes & Priscilla Perry
 - Meetings: As announced
- Student Senate is open to students in grades 9-12. Promoting student leadership and providing community service are the main goals of Mohonasen's Student Senate.
- Officers are elected at the start of each school year for: president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, representatives to the Board of Education and class officers for each grade. The Student Senate sponsors two blood drives every year, the Band Jam during Respect Week at the high school and a holiday food drive.

TEAM AMERICA ROCKETRY CHALLENGE (TARC) CLUB

- Advisors: Gerald Garing & George Reluzco
 - Meetings: As announced
- This club is open to students in grades 7-12 who are interested in model rockets. Teams design, build and fly a model rocket that reaches a specific altitude and duration determined by a set of rules developed each year. The contest is designed to encourage students to study science, technology, engineering and math and pursue careers in aerospace. TARC is the world's largest rocket contest sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and the National Association of Rocketry (NAR). More than 7,000 students compete yearly and the top 100 teams compete in Virginia for \$60,000 in cash and prizes with additional possibilities for scholarships.

TECHNOLOGY CLUB

- Advisor: Robert Buehler
 - Meetings: Bi-weekly
- The Technology Club is open to students in grades 9-12. Examples of club activities include: constructing and programming Boe-Bots™, flying remote-controlled airplanes, and projects to benefit the community and the school. The Technology Club's mission statement is: "As members of the Technology Club, we strive to expand our knowledge beyond the course curriculums through various hands-on projects. By applying our acquired knowledge, we hope to partake in activities that serve to improve our school and community."

TOTEM – SCHOOL YEARBOOK

- Advisors: Denna Hughes & Stephanie Arnold
 - Meetings: As announced
- Members of the yearbook staff work hard all year to create a great record of memories and noteworthy events of the year. Jobs include photography, layout and design, caption writing and information gathering. Joining the yearbook staff can be lots of fun – but it's also lots of work. There are strict deadlines to meet and priorities to be set. The staff always has a great time and all the hard work and persistence pays off at the end of the year when the finished product is printed and distributed.

“this & that”

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER

Any change of telephone number must be reported to the Counseling and Career Center (356-8322). For obvious reasons, the school must have a daytime phone number where parents can be reached in the event of an emergency.

Any change of address must be reported to the district Registrar and three proofs of residency must be submitted. To make an appointment with the registrar, please call 356-8222. Visit the Register a Student page at www.mohonasen.org to learn more.

CLOSINGS & DELAYS

The superintendent of schools may close schools or dismiss students and staff early when hazardous weather or an unexpected emergency threatens health or safety.

School closing and delayed starting times will be reported to local television stations and the following radio stations: WGY, WROW, WFLY, WYJB, WABT, WPTR, WGNA, WRVE, WKLI, WKBE, WABY, WAJZ and WTRY.

Closing information is also posted on the school district website (www.mohonasen.org) and via the district’s weather telephone hotline (356-8348). E-mail and text message alerts are also sent out through the School News Notifier (SNN) system. To sign up to receive SNN alerts, visit www.mohonasen.org.

Parents are asked to avoid calling the school office for this information in order to keep phone lines open.

CODE OF CONDUCT

In compliance with the state’s Safe Schools Against Violence (SAVE) legislation, the Mohonasen Board of Education has adopted a Code of Conduct (i.e., rules and regulations) for all people on school property.

This districtwide Code of Conduct was developed in consultation with teachers, parents, students, administrators and other school/community representatives and is updated annually. A summary booklet is available online at www.mohonasen.org or in the high school main office.

Mohonasen’s Code of Conduct sets high standards for student conduct and outlines clear consequences for students who break the rules. This Code of Conduct will serve as a standard for consistency and fairness that protects students’ rights while promoting responsibility.

We are committed to holding high academic standards of integrity. The Code of Conduct specifically addresses consequences for infractions such as swearing, plagiarism and cheating.

Parents play an important role in the maintenance of good discipline in Mohonasen schools. Parents are encouraged to review the Code of Conduct and discuss it with their children on a regular basis.

Parents should encourage students to be “school ready”

every day. This includes ensuring students arrive on time, dress appropriately, bring all needed materials and present an attitude of respect. It is essential that parents contact the school with any information that can help avoid problems during the school day.

Classroom Rules:

Students are expected to follow four basic rules:

1. Students will arrive to class on time.
2. Students will bring all necessary materials to class.
3. Students will complete all assignments on time to the best of their ability.
4. Students will behave in a manner which is not disruptive.

COMPUTER USE CODE

Mohonasen High School has technology resources that those at many high schools can only dream of. Students have ready access to computers and other technology in their regular classrooms, the library and in multiple computer labs throughout the school.

Student use of these computers and other learning technologies is contingent upon them signing an Internet Code of Ethics Agreement each year and abiding by the rules spelled out therein. Parents are also asked to sign-off on this agreement.

All students are strongly advised to abide by the rules spelled out in the Computer Use Code. It is very simple for network administrators to pinpoint misuse of computers – down to which computer, at what time and who was using it. So do yourself a favor and don’t horse around on the school computers.

FIELD TRIPS

Students must have prior written approval from a parent or guardian for all school sponsored field trips. A permission form must be obtained from the teacher coordinating the trip, signed and returned to the school prior to the trip.

Additionally, in order to participate in field trips, students must have on file with the school nurse a Student Health Card and the Field Trip/Medical Emergency form.

Keep in mind that participation in field trips is a privilege, not a right, and may be revoked based on behavior, attendance or school performance. Students are representatives of their school while on field trips and should behave accordingly by following all school rules. Students are responsible for making up any missed coursework while on a trip.

FORMAL AND SEMI-FORMAL DANCES

Mohonasen High School has a series of formal and semi-formal dances for students. The Junior Prom and Senior Ball are held in late spring.

– Continued on next page





“THIS AND THAT” – continued

Students are permitted to bring guests to these dances from outside the Mohonasen community. Any student wishing to bring a guest must fill out a guest form (available in advance of ticket sales). Mohonasen High School administration reserves the right to deny attendance to any individual based on concern about student safety or behavior. Guests must be in high school and under the age of 21. Appeals to this policy must be placed in writing and submitted to the superintendent of schools no later than 14 days prior to the scheduled event.

GRADUATION SPEECHES

Each spring a contest is held to select seniors to speak at the high school graduation ceremony in June. All seniors are eligible to compete for this honor, although the two students in the senior class with the first and second highest cumulative GPAs after seven semesters are entitled to speak in the ceremony provided they choose to compete in the speaker contest. Working with a faculty member of their choosing, students write their speech and then present it before a panel of judges comprised of various community members. Students who are not selected to address their peers at graduation are eligible to speak at the senior breakfast.

GRAPHING CALCULATORS

Graphing calculators are used regularly in high school math classes, on tests and for homework. The State Education Department requires the use of a graphing calculator on the Integrated Algebra, Geometry and Algebra 2 Regents Exams.

Mohonasen has a limited supply of graphing calculators for student use in classrooms and on tests. Homework will also be assigned that requires their use to reinforce concepts and complete assignments.

Toward that end, the math department strongly recommends that all students purchase the Texas Instruments TI-83 PLUS, TI-84 PLUS or TI-Nspire graphing calculator which retail for about \$100. It is a worthy investment that can be used in all high school math and science classes – as well as in college.

LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY DISMISSAL

Seniors in good standing may be eligible to arrive late or leave early from school if their schedule permits. This privilege may be revoked at any time if academic, attendance or behavioral concerns arise. Students must complete an application form to determine eligibility. Forms are available in the main office.

Interested seniors should contact their guidance counselor for more information.

LOCKERS

Student lockers are the property of the district and, like textbooks, are loaned to students for their use during the school year.

To ensure student health and safety, the school reserves the right to inspect locker contents. This inspection may include, but is not limited to, locker clean out days, the use of trained drug dogs and individual locker inspections.

Students should *not* store valuables in their lockers. Be sure your locker is closed and locked before you leave it. The school district is not responsible for items reported missing from student lockers. Students are to use only the locker assigned to them and are to keep their locker clean and undamaged.

Make sure you've cleaned out your locker at the end of the school year by the deadline stated on the morning announcements. After that time, all lockers *will* be emptied and your personal items will be relocated to a central “lost and found” box. (Hint: You'd be surprised how many students *don't* pay attention to the end of year deadline and then end up digging through mountains of abandoned “stuff” for a beloved coat... CD... pair of shoes... etc.)

All students are responsible for leaving their lockers in the same condition as they were in the beginning of the year. Students who deface their lockers will be required to return their locker to its original condition or pay for damages.

Gym Lockers

A gym locker and lock will be assigned to students for all four years of high school. A \$5 deposit will be required for the school lock. This deposit will be returned when the lock is returned at the end of the student's senior year or when he or she leaves Mohonasen.

Personal locks are not permitted. During the summer, gym lockers will be left *open* with the locks attached. As with regular hallway lockers, students should not store anything valuable in their gym lockers.

LOST AND FOUND

Any student who has lost, or believes his/her property has been stolen, should report this to the main office. School officials will make a reasonable attempt to find lost or stolen property, but the district is not responsible for its replacement. Students who find property belonging to someone else are asked to bring it to the main office.

MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Each day during homeroom period, morning announcements give students valuable information about things like: athletic team tryouts, club activities, scholarship information, various application deadlines, social activities and more. Have a pencil ready to jot down notes!

In addition, on Friday mornings the announcements are broadcast in the school via MHSTV.

Students attending a morning program at the Capital Region BOCES Career and Technical School will need to show extra initiative since they will miss these announce-



“THIS AND THAT” – continued

ments. They are strongly encouraged to stop down to the main office on a daily basis to read the announcements or visit the Mohonasen website where they are posted daily.

PASSES

Any student in the hall during classes is required to have a proper pass, issued and signed by a staff member. It is each student's responsibility to obtain a pass when traveling the halls. We will continue to use agenda passbooks for this purpose. Students are required to present their pass whenever asked by a staff member. Students stopped in the hallway without a pass will be reported to the front desk. Multiple offenses will result in detention.

PHONE CALLS

In the event of an emergency, parents should contact the school office or attendance office if they need to get a message to their child. But please limit such requests to emergencies only to avoid disruptions to classrooms. Parents should not call or text students on personal cell phones during the school day as this causes a disruption and may result in student discipline.

PUBLIC CONCERNS

Public concerns about any facet of school operations should generally follow a chain of command, starting with the person closest to the source of the complaint.

In most instances, concerns will be directed to the building principal or his/her assistant if the matter cannot *first* be resolved by the teacher, coach or other staff member involved.

If an issue is not satisfactorily resolved at the building level, the concern may be carried to the superintendent of schools or one of her assistants.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)

Thanks to a partnership with the Rotterdam Police Department, a uniformed police officer works full-time at the high school when school is in session.

Mohonasen High School's SRO provides a visible law enforcement presence on the campus. He is also a resource for students, parents, faculty and staff. The SRO is involved in counseling, teaching, participation in extracurricular activities as well as safety and security issues. His office is located in the lobby outside the high school gym.

SCHOOL SUPPLY LISTS

Due to the varied course offerings at the high school, a list of the school supplies required for each course will be provided by each teacher when classes begin.

If purchasing school supplies is a financial hardship, please contact your child's guidance counselor.

SECURITY CAMERAS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

Surveillance cameras to help deter violence and vandalism are in place in all Mohonasen schools.

These closed-circuit TV cameras monitor student activity in high-traffic areas both inside and outside of our schools. Security cameras record people as they enter and exit each building and sensors notify staff when there has been an unauthorized entry at selected doors. (There are *no* surveillance cameras in student bathrooms or physical education locker rooms.)

The presence of cameras is designed to serve as an added deterrent to fights and other misbehavior, vandalism and violence. Video recordings also provide powerful evidence in disciplinary or criminal investigations.

SENIOR PRIVILEGES/EVENTS

Students designated as seniors are eligible for various privileges including accessing the courtyard during study hall and applying for a late arrival or early dismissal (schedule permitting), as well as the opportunity to attend special events such as the senior picnic. These opportunities are in place to honor the maturity of students during this transitional year and are afforded to students in good academic standing (passing all classes required for graduation). Students failing to maintain this standard risk losing their privileges and will be unable to attend these special events.

SOCIAL WORK/STUDENT ASSISTANCE COUNSELOR

The school social workers collaborate with teachers, administrators, students and families, and interface with community-based providers to respond to and support student's social, emotional and behavioral needs. Social work at school is purposefully short term. Through individual and small-group counseling, referrals to outside agencies, individualized programs and crisis intervention, the social workers address the needs of students to promote their social-emotional progress. The social workers are also responsible for providing social-work services to students who have counseling on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Mohonasen also has a student assistance counselor who is available to help students who are dealing with personal problems such as depression, drug or alcohol abuse, a family crisis, etc.

Students may contact the social workers or student assistance counselor directly or they may be referred to her by a parent or other school personnel. Parents can also call the guidance office for information and referrals to community and social service programs.



“THIS AND THAT” – continued

STUDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES

Each spring two juniors are elected to represent their senior classmates as representatives to the Board of Education. Students work closely with student groups and high school administrators to develop culture and programs at the high school. The Board representatives attend monthly board meetings to present on issues and events occurring at the high school.

STUDENT ID'S

All high school students are issued a Mohonasen Student Identification Card from the company that takes student pictures each year. This ID may be required at school dances so it's a good idea to keep it in a safe and accessible location.

STUDENT PARKING PRIVILEGES

Students with a valid driver's license who wish to apply for a parking permit should request an application from the SRO when they become available in September. A non-refundable fee of \$25 is required to receive a permit. As spaces are limited, permits are granted first to seniors and then to juniors. Within each grade level, permits are granted on a lottery basis. Eligible students who do not receive permits are placed on a waiting list and granted a space when one becomes available. Sophomores and freshmen are not permitted to drive to school under any circumstances.

Students should be aware that student parking is a privilege, not a right. Chronic attendance problems and/or disciplinary issues will result in suspension/revocation of parking privileges. Students may park only in their designated space in the student parking lot. Cars parked in areas other than the student lot or on campus without a valid parking permit may be towed at the owners expense. Students are not allowed to return to their car during the school day without prior permission. Sitting, eating or smoking in the vehicle – even during lunch periods – is strictly prohibited during the school day. Student drivers are expected to abide by the 15 m.p.h. speed limit on school property and report to homeroom by 7:38 a.m.

STUDENT RECORDS

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents (not step-parents) and students over 18 years of age the following rights:

1. The right to inspect and review your (or your child's) education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the records they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify you of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of your (or your child's) education records that you believe are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask the district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading by writing the principal, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specifying why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided at this same time.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in your (or your child's) education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

Release of Student Directory Information

From time to time, student directory information is published on the Mohonasen website, in school publications or released to the media to recognize student achievement or depict activities of the Mohonasen School District. Parents who object to the disclosure of their child's directory information should notify both the superintendent of schools and their child's building principal, in writing, on or before September 15 of each school year. For more details, see the “release of directory information” notice on the district website at www.mohonasen.org.

Release of Student Information to the Military and Institutions of Higher Learning

In accordance with federal legislation, schools are required to release student names, addresses and phone numbers to military recruiters and/or institutions of higher education unless the student's parent(s) have notified their child's school principal, in writing, that they do not want this information released. Notification must be received on or before October 1 in any given school year.

STUDENT PLANNERS/ ASSIGNMENT NOTEBOOKS

All students are **STRONGLY** advised to use a student planner/assignment notebook on a daily basis to record homework assignments and help plan their schedules. Quite simply, these are essential from elementary school on up, especially when students have to juggle homework assignments from seven or more teachers each week. The passbook of the agenda pages are also to be used as passes.

Parents are asked to encourage the use of these planners and to check them on a regular basis if there are concerns about homework. If a student loses the planner, he/she must purchase another planner, which are available in the main office. There is a minimal fee for the planner.

STUDENT TRANSFERS

If a student is going to transfer to another school district, parents should notify the current school counselor as far in



“THIS AND THAT” – continued

advance as possible. Early notice will help make the transition smoother for all concerned. School records need to be transferred and processed and schedules need to be adapted when students leave one school for another. Whenever possible, it's best to time the move to coincide with the end of a marking period or the beginning of a new school year.

SWIMMING POOL

In addition to its use in physical education classes, students can take advantage of a growing number of pool programs and courses.

For example, students can take lifeguarding courses at Mohonasen. Once they receive their certification, students age 15 and older can be employed as lifeguards at the pool – a fun and lucrative part-time job!

Students can also participate in the early morning lap swim or open swim sessions for just \$2. A calendar of pool classes is posted on the district website (swimming pool pages). Students on the boys' and girls' swim teams also use the pool for practice and meets.

Mohonasen's Aquatics Department is looking at adding new and more specialized classes so listen to the morning announcements, check the bulletin board at the entrance to the pool or visit the website for the latest offerings and opportunities.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks and, in certain cases, other school supplies and materials, are provided to students on a loan basis. Such property is generally intended for use by a number of students over a period of years and should not be abused. All textbooks are to be covered.

Many of the new textbook companies now offer companion websites and Web-based tutorials to help students succeed. When in doubt, ask the teacher for the Web address and (in some cases) the required password for accessing these added resources.

Students are responsible for the return of all loaned property. Each book is checked by the teacher when issued and its number and condition are registered upon student receipt. With reasonable care, books can be returned in June in about the same condition as when issued. If a book is lost or damaged, the student will be required to pay a fee based on the cost and condition of the book when issued.

“TRADING POST”

SCHOOL STORE/FIRST NEW YORK CREDIT UNION

The “Trading Post” school store is centrally located in the high school across from the library. It sells apparel and school supplies. These items include, but are not limited to academic review books and Mohonasen “spirited” paraphernalia. The “Trading Post” is open various hours during the day and after school.

First New York Credit Union is located within our school store. It is staffed by high school students and is overseen by a high school advisor. This credit union branch is opened to students and school district staff members for deposits, withdrawals, check cashing and loan payments. It is an offline environment so there is no member confidentiality compromised. The credit union is open for business during lunch periods each Friday.

VISITORS TO THE HIGH SCHOOL

For security reasons, all visitors during school hours are required to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. This includes parents. Student visitors are not permitted during the school day.

WORKING PAPERS

Any student under the age of 18 who wants to work must first get working papers from the Counseling and Career Center. This requires a parent's written permission to work, proof of age and a certificate of physical fitness.

“Blue cards” are issued for students under the age of 16. When students turn 16 they must reapply for “green card” working papers.

The following laws apply to underage workers:

- Twelve- and 13-year-olds can hand-harvest fruits and vegetables up to four hours/week and can work as newspaper carriers (ages 11+).
- Fourteen- and 15-year-olds can work for three hours on a school day and eight hours Saturday, Sunday and holidays – up to an 18-hour work week. During the summer, they can work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- At age 16, teens can work four hours per day, Monday through Thursday, and eight hours per day Fridays, weekends or holidays. They can work up to 28 hours per week, between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. With parental permission, they can work until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.
- No minor can work in the construction industry and teens are not permitted to operate machinery that could prove dangerous.
- Teens must be paid minimum wage.

Teens and parents should be mindful that while working offers a number of clear benefits, studies show that working 15 hours or more each week during the school year often requires students to sacrifice sleep, homework and family time.

Bottom line? School should be the number one priority.

That said, students who are looking for work can check out the JOB BOARD in the Counseling and Career Center.

Students should also keep in mind that employers will often call the high school to request school attendance reports before deciding whether or not to hire that person. (Another reason why good school attendance counts!)



other programs & services...

The Food Service Program

It's a fact.

Students who are well-nourished are shown to have increased problem-solving abilities, memory, verbal fluency and creativity.

With that in mind, Mohonasen offers a food service program at the high school that is designed to fuel learning AND offering a variety of choices that appeal to teens.

HOW MUCH DOES BREAKFAST & LUNCH COST?

High school students are offered full breakfast for \$1.00 in Cafeteria B. School lunches at the high school cost \$2.50.

Students can pay for meals as they go. They can also pay \$50 up front, which gives them 20 prepaid lunches – plus one free one. To prepay, parents can mail a check to the Mohonasen Food Service Program at 2072 Curry Road, Schenectady, NY 12303 or they can send payment to school with their teen. Parents can also prepay online at www.PayPAMS.com.

Students are given a pin-number to type into a computer keypad as they go through the cafeteria line and the cost of the meal is automatically deducted from their account. Pin numbers are the same from year to year except for incoming ninth graders, who will receive a pin number on the first day.

WHY ARE MEAL PRICES INCREASING?

New federal regulations, outlined in the Healthy, Hungry Free Kids Act that was signed into law in December, require school districts to begin raising their prices so that they fall within specific guidelines. Under this same law, school lunches must also now include only fat-free milk, as well as more fruits, vegetables and whole-grains.

HOW HEALTHY ARE SCHOOL MEALS?

Today's school meals are lower in fat and provide well-balanced servings from each food group. School lunches provide one half of the recommended dietary allowances for calories, protein and vitamins A and C, iron and calcium.

In recent years Mohonasen has also increased the use of whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables. And nothing is fried; everything is baked including the French fries! In addition, all milk products are now skim or 1 percent.

At the same time, the Food Service Program keeps a close eye on meal counts and student feedback to determine what kids want to eat. Students also have plenty of variety to choose from.

In an ongoing effort to keep student interest, two new items are piloted each month.

NO-CHARGE POLICY AT THE HIGH SCHOOL

Unlike our elementary and middle schools, students at Mohonasen High School are not allowed to charge any school lunches.

This policy was prompted by the fact that staff in the food service program were having difficulty collecting payment for lunch charges and a significant amount of money was going uncollected at the close of each school year.

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS

Students may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals if their families meet federal guidelines. The application takes only minutes to fill out and can be done at any time during the school year.

Students are given pin numbers just like everyone else so their peers and food service workers are not aware which students are receiving free or discounted meals.

A copy of the application is mailed out each summer. The application can also be obtained by calling the food service office at 356-8225 or online at www.mohonasen.org.

PAY FOR BREAKFAST OR LUNCHES ONLINE USING PAYPAMS

Parents can pay for their child's meals from the comfort of their own home using PayPAMS – an online service that let's you pre-pay for meals online. With PayPAMS parents can also view and manage their child's meal account, schedule automatic payments and view a report of daily spending and cafeteria purchases for free. Get started by logging onto www.PayPAMS.com.





OTHER PROGRAMS & SERVICES – continued

Health Services

A full-time registered nurse is on staff at the high school to serve student health needs, along with a part-time health office assistant.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Mohonasen provides supplemental student accident insurance that serves as secondary coverage. Benefits will not be paid for medical expenses covered by a student's primary insurer. In order to receive benefits from Mohonasen's student accident policy, parents must first submit all medical bills to their own health insurance carrier. In the event no health insurance exists, the district has elected to self-fund the \$100 deductible for this coverage. Insurance forms are available in the nurse's office.

HEALTH CARDS

At the start of each school year a Student Health Card is sent home for parents/guardians to fill out and return "ASAP" to the school. Students will not be able to take part in off-campus field trips and sports if these cards are not returned.

The information on this card is kept on file in the nurse's office throughout the year. It includes emergency contact numbers for parents and medical information concerning each student. Parents are urged to call the school nurse immediately if any of this information changes during the school year.

ILLNESS

Students who get sick or injured during the school day need to report to the school nurse before calling or texting a parent to come get them or leaving school on their own. These students must be released by the school nurse.

MEDICATIONS IN SCHOOL

Students, with the exception of diabetics, may not have ANY medication (prescription or over the counter) on their possession during the school day (i.e., not in pockets, lunch boxes, backpacks, lockers, etc.). The only medication exceptions are an asthma inhaler or Epi-Pen, which may be carried by the student if they have a physician order and parent consent, along with the approval of the school nurse.

The following guidelines must be met before administer-

ing any medication during school hours:

- All medication, over the counter and prescription, must be brought to school by a parent or responsible adult in the original labeled container (prescription medication must be in a pharmacy labeled container). Stock Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen are available in the nurse's office and can be given by the school nurse with a physician order unless the parent chooses to provide the student's own Acetaminophen/Ibuprofen. All other over the counter medication must be provided by the parent.
- A written physician order including name, dose, duration, and reason for prescribing the medication and possible adverse reactions.
- A written note from parent/guardian giving the school nurse permission to administer the medication as prescribed by the physician.
- Any discontinued or unused medication will be disposed of at the end of the school year if not picked up by the parent by June 30.
- All medication orders must be renewed by the physician each school year.

SCHOOL PHYSICALS

New students to the district, as well as students entering the 10th grade, shall submit a health physical certificate signed by a licensed physician. This certificate shall be submitted within 30 days of entrance into the district or within 30 days after his/her entrance into 10th grade. Such examination shall be accepted if it is administered not more than 12 months prior to commencement of the school year in which it is required. If the student does not submit a current physical from his/her own physician, a free school physical will be scheduled during the school year in the nurse's office with the school physician.

Please use the Mohonasen Health Physical Form Grades 6-12. This form is available on our website, www.mohonasen.org/forms.

SPORTS PHYSICALS

See Athletic Program/Rules About Sports Physicals, page 24.





Parent Organizations

Participation in parent organizations at Mohonasen is a natural way to stay connected to your teen. It's also a way to get involved in some of the many fun and worthwhile activities that these groups support. Get involved and you'll also get to know your teen's friends – and their parents – a little better, too!

BAND BOOSTERS

The Mohonasen Band Boosters is a parent organization that raises funds to support the activities of the Mohonasen High School Marching Band. Among the yearly activities that the group sponsors is the Home Show field competition in the fall and the Brooks Barbecue fundraiser in May. The group also sponsors a midyear band banquet.

The group generally meets immediately following the Music Parents monthly meetings.

MOHONASEN/GUILDERLAND HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

This parent organization provides support and fundraising for the Mohonasen/Guilderland Hockey Team.

MUSIC PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Mohonasen Music Parents Association is a parent group that supports ALL student musical performing groups in the district.

The group helps plan and chaperone the big spring field trip/competition for the Marching Band and Color Guard.

Music Parents also helps organize the Strawberry Festival in June, helps with the annual concerts and awards a variety of music scholarships each year. Members of Music Parents also chaperone at events where the band plays – from local parades to out-of-state competitions.

The group meets monthly during the school year. Check the district calendar for dates and times.

PARENT-TEACHER-STUDENT ORGANIZATION

The PTSO serves students in grades 6-12 at Draper Middle School and Mohonasen High School. The group does a variety of fundraising activities throughout the year to support student activities.

The biggest events that the PTSO sponsors are the fun-filled, adult-chaperoned Afterglow parties following the junior prom and senior ball.

The PTSO also sponsors the senior breakfast at the high school, awards annual scholarships and helps out with hospitality at special events like the annual open houses at the middle and high schools.

At the middle school level, the PTSO is involved in Teen Town (serving as chaperones and running the concession stand), sponsoring the 8th-Grade Farewell Dance and assisting with awards ceremonies.





OTHER PROGRAMS & SERVICES – continued

Students with Disabilities

Like all high schools, students with disabilities are actively involved throughout Mohonasen. They enjoy the same challenges and opportunities as their peers. The students frequently receive additional services or participate in special programs to accommodate their disabilities while facilitating their success in school and life.

What follows is a BRIEF explanation of some of Mohonasen's programs, plans and resources for students with disabilities. For more information, call the Director for Special and Alternative Education at 356-8221.

CONSULTANT TEACHERS

Since the goal is to provide a quality education in the least restrictive environment, most disabled students learn side-by-side with their peers in general education classrooms. Consultant teachers are special education teachers who work with the regular classroom teacher to help “integrated” students find success in the general education environment. Consultant teachers, for example, may co-teach lessons, restructure assignments, provide special accommodations and follow-up with students and teachers after class.

RESOURCE ROOM

Special education teachers are available to meet with students in small groups outside the general education classrooms to make sure students receive the supplemental supports needed to meet high academic standards. The nature of these supports is spelled out in each student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

The resource room is staffed by special education teachers who provide additional instruction to strengthen the skills of disabled students. Resource room teachers also work closely with students' regular classroom teachers to provide students with necessary accommodations and modifications.

SPECIAL CLASSES

While all disabled students are encouraged to participate in general education classes, for some this environment proves to be very restrictive. Some students require the additional support and structure of special classes designed to address their unique instructional needs. These classes have low student-to-teacher ratios and allow for more individualized instruction.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PLAN (IEP)

The Committee on Special Education must develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for all students who are eligible for special education services.

In developing the IEP, the committee considers evaluations, student strengths, concerns of the parent and, where appropriate, student performance on state and district assessments.

An IEP documents the following: present level of performance; how the student's disability impacts his/her participation in the general curriculum; classification of the disability; annual goals; recommended programs and services; whether or not the student will participate in state or alternate assessments; a list of any alternative accommodations; a list of any assistive technology devices; and transitional goals at the appropriate time.

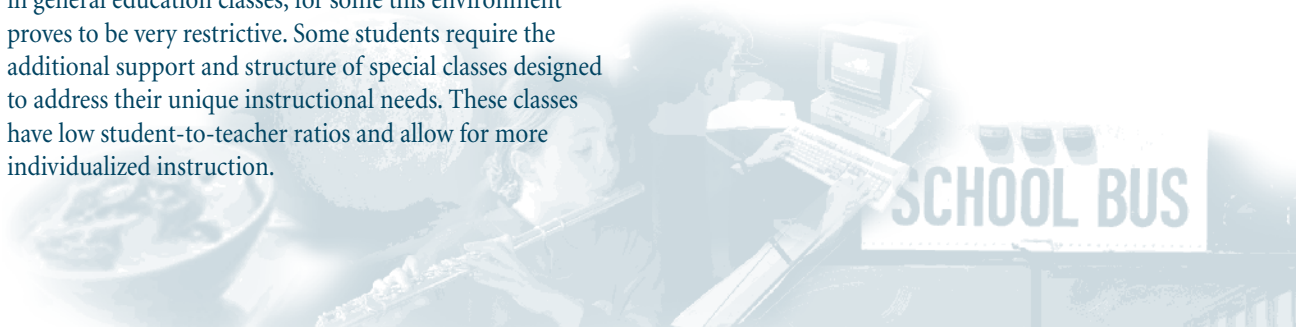
NON-REGENTS DIPLOMA OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The State Education Department has ruled that the local diploma will be available to students with disabilities.

These students must still take the five required Regents exams. However, if they fail to pass one or more exams, students with disabilities who score a 55-64 would then qualify for a local diploma. This “safety net” applies to any student who has been identified through the Committee on Special Education (CSE) or through documentation on a Section 504 by a Multidisciplinary Team. It is also available to students with disabilities who have been “declassified” in grades 8-12, if recommended and documented by a CSE.

Students with disabilities may also qualify for an “IEP diploma” which certifies that the student has met all the goals set in his or her Individual Education Plan.

– Continued on next page





OTHER PROGRAMS & SERVICES – continued

Students with Disabilities – continued

PROGRAM/TESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with IEPs or 504 Plans often have testing or classroom accommodations as part of their high school program. Accommodations may include: additional time and alternative locations to take tests; and/or additional strategies for participating in class activities, for acquiring class notes or for completing homework. Testing accommodations are only valid as the result of a Committee on Special Education (CSE) recommendation or 504 Plan.

504 PLANS

“504 Plans” are developed to support students whose physical or medical needs have a significant negative impact on their success in school. Special accommodations are written into 504 Plans to ensure that students with disabilities receive a free and appropriate education – just as non-disabled students do. Accommodations, for example, may include providing additional time and alternative locations for tests or special strategies for participating in class activities. A 504 Plan is not the same as an IEP (Individual Education Plan), which is generally much more intensive.

PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

At the request of the Pupil Study Team and/or the parent/guardian, a student can receive psychoeducational testing, which may include tests of ability and/or achievement level. A psycho-educational evaluation must be authorized by Mohonasen’s Office of Student Services. Testing is conducted by the school psychologist. Students with an IEP are required to receive an updated evaluation at least every three years.

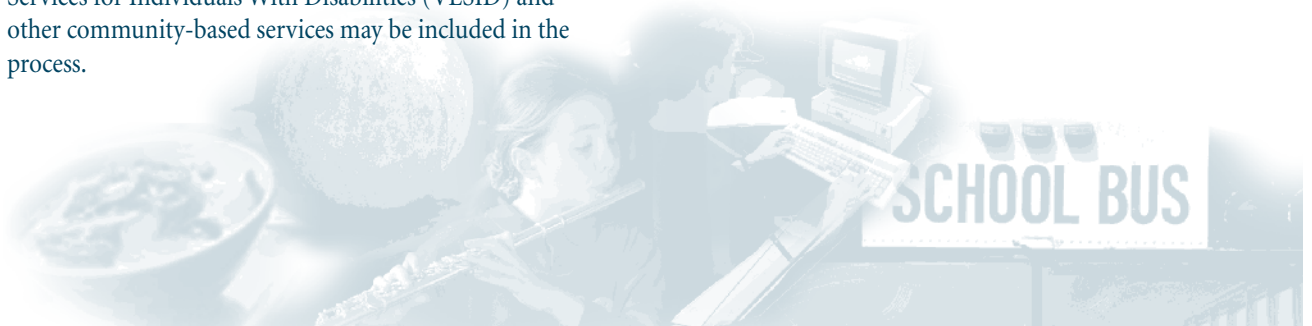
TRANSITION PLANNING

All students age 15 and older who have a disability receive transitional planning as part of the annual review of the special education program. The student’s case manager, in consultation with the transition coordinator from BOCES, will annually work with students and their families to address post-secondary education, employment and community living goals. As students move closer to graduation, a representative from Vocational and Education Services for Individuals With Disabilities (VESID) and other community-based services may be included in the process.

WEB RESOURCES

The Internet is a wonderful source of information for parents and students who want to learn more about a particular disability, find resources, network, etc. What follows are just a few good sites that address some of the most common disabilities among district students:

- **THE NEW YORK AUTISM NETWORK**
www.albany.edu/psy/autism/autism.html
- **ASPERGER SYNDROME EDUCATION NETWORK**
www.aspenj.org
- **CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER (CHADD)**
www.chadd.org
- **NATIONAL ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER ASSOCIATION**
www.add.org
- **DYSLEXIA TREATMENT AND COUNSELING CENTER**
<http://gatenet.com/dyslexia-add>
- **LEARNING DISABILITIES** – www.idonline.org
- **NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH DISABILITIES**
www.nichcy.org
- **OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE FOUNDATION**
www.ocfoundation.org
- **NYS TALKING BOOK AND BRAILLE LIBRARY**
www.nysl.nysed.gov/talk.htm
- **VOCATIONAL AND EDUCATION SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES**
www.nysl.nysed.gov/talk.htm
- **OFFICE OF SPECIAL ED. AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**
www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS
- **EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER**
www.accesseric.org/index.html





OTHER PROGRAMS & SERVICES – continued

Transportation Services

Mohonasen transports 3,500 students over a half million miles each year. The Transportation Department works hard to provide safe and efficient service to all students.

Post cards are also sent out notifying students of their ASSIGNED bus stop. Students are asked to report ONLY to this stop. However, complete bus schedules are available by calling the transportation office (356-8260) or the superintendent's office (356-8200).

Please be patient during the first few weeks of school to allow drivers to adjust bus routes and times. Pick-up and drop-off times may vary 5-10 minutes either way.

BUS RULES

The safety of all students is the district's primary concern. All buses are school property and are subject to all rules set forth in the Code of Conduct. Each student has an individual responsibility to help ensure the safety of all students on the bus by following the rules.

Coming to school, going home and riding buses for extracurricular events or field trips, all students are expected to listen to and obey all instructions from transportation personnel and adhere to the following rules:

1. Behave in a safe and orderly manner at the bus stop/bus port and on the bus.
2. Look both ways if crossing a road AND wait for the driver's hand signal or directions before crossing.
3. Enter and exit the bus in an orderly fashion.
4. Ride in your seat, facing forward.
5. Keep the bus clean and free of litter.
6. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus at all times.
7. Be responsible for your own belongings.
8. Respect other's property.
9. Speak quietly, using appropriate and respectful language.
10. Refrain from activities that may damage the bus.
11. Use of illegal substances (alcohol, tobacco, and drugs) is prohibited.
12. Refrain from bringing objects (such as skateboards, large musical instruments or school projects) onto the bus that may present a safety hazard.
13. Eating or drinking on the bus is not allowed. Many students have food allergies and food, etc., on the bus could cause a medical emergency.

The Code of Conduct spells out clear disciplinary procedures for students who violate bus rules. These rules are available on the district website.

CHANGING BUS STOPS

If you want to request a change in an assigned bus stop, contact Mohonasen's Transportation Department by phone at 356-8260.

Mohonasen's policy is to try to honor change requests to other existing bus stops – provided there is enough room on the bus. (For obvious safety reasons, the district's goal is to have no students forced to stand on buses. During the first two weeks of school bus routes may be adjusted to meet this goal.)

LATE BUSES

Late buses are provided, Tuesdays and Thursdays, to all middle and high school students who stay after school for 10th period help, extracurricular meetings and other school activities. Students need to get a bus pass from their teacher or coach in order to ride a late bus.

Late buses stop at the middle school first and then proceed to the high school. They typically arrive between 3:10 and 3:30 p.m. daily.

An additional bus is available at 4 p.m., also on Tuesdays and Thursdays, to bring students home from scheduled detentions.

If you aren't sure which late bus to take home, check the list posted in the high school office or check the district website.

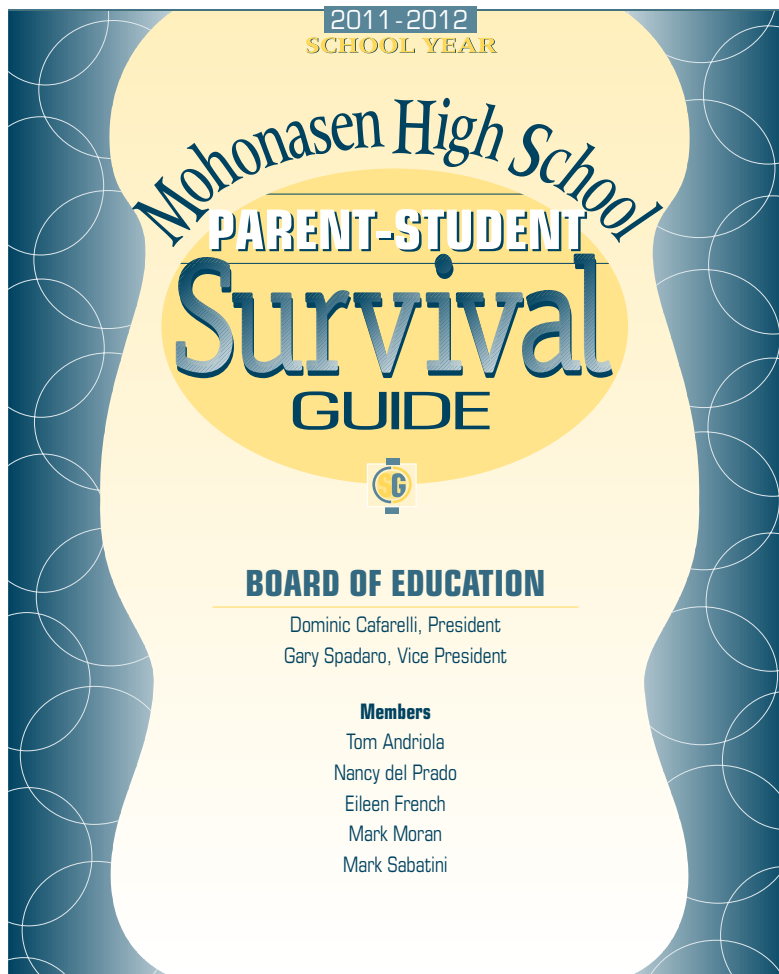
For more information about Mohonasen's transportation department, please visit www.mohonasen.org.

SCHOOL BUS

Mohonasen Central School District

**2072 Curry Road
Schenectady, New York 12303**

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 860
Albany, NY



MOHONASEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT