

SUMMIT CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

SECONDARY SCOOP

ISSUE 2, DECEMBER 6, 2011

Dear Parents,

What a great year we have had so far! I trust it has been an outstanding year for each of you as well. There are several topics that I would like to highlight in this second issue of the *Secondary Scoop*. I hope the following information is helpful to you.

Fall Testing for 8th, 9th, and 10th Grades

I was very pleased with the results of the fall testing we did with our 8th, 9th, and 10th graders this fall. About 46 percent scored at or above the benchmark in all four areas, with the 9th grade at 63 percent and the 10th grade at 68 percent. Considering that only 25 percent of students nation wide are able to perform that well, I think our students did an outstanding job of taking these timed, nationally-normed tests. Individual score sheets and test booklets were sent home with the students in November. If you have not seen these, please ask your students for them. The score sheets will tell you exactly which questions the students missed. Having the test booklet allows students to look back at the questions missed to analyze why they missed the question. If you have any questions or would like for me to go over the score sheet with you, please let me know.

Distinguished Diploma

Summit has several diploma plans available for students. In addition to the Recommended diploma, the school offers a Distinguished diploma. Students must apply to the Distinguished Scholar Program to be eligible for the diploma. In addition to completing 5 advanced classes, each student is required to complete an independent study project on an approved topic. The best time to do this is during the summer after the junior year. The Project includes a 4,000-word research paper, an internship (40 hours minimum), and a 10-minute oral presentation with visuals to a committee of teachers, board members, administrators, and community members. Students receive a full credit for this project. Students must be on the Distinguished diploma plan to be considered a candidate for valedictorian or salutatorian.

Internet Safety

Recently I was asked if the school ever has a speaker who comes in to teach students about internet safety. So far, we have not done that, but here are some of the things we do at school to protect your child as well as some tips for you to share with your students.

At school we teach students Internet safety, and we have systems in place that block networking sites such as Facebook on all school computers. Here are additional safety tips that can help keep you child safe.

- Never give out any personal information to anyone on the Internet (including name, address, phone number, age, friend's names, school location, etc.)
- Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with anyone you have met on the Internet.
- Parents should search and monitor their child's social networking accounts. Make sure your child's online "friends" are people he/she actually knows.
- Always maintain access to your child's online account and randomly check his/her email. Be upfront with them about your access and the reasons why.
- Make sure you understand how your children are using the computer, what web sites they are visiting, and who they are communicating with online.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ◆ *Secondary Christmas Parties*—Dec 9
- ◆ *School Play "It's A Wonderful Life"* - Dec 8-10
- ◆ *Final Exams*—Dec 12-16
- ◆ *Secondary Half Days* — Dec 14-16
- ◆ *Secondary Casual Days*— Dec 14-16
- ◆ *Report Cards Released*— Dec 16
- ◆ *Christmas Break*—Dec 19—Jan 2
- ◆ *Return From Break*—Jan 3
- ◆ *Chess Tournament*—Jan 7-8
- ◆ *Impact Casual*—Jan 11
- ◆ *All—School Holiday*— Jan 16
- ◆ *Impact Casual*—Feb 1
- ◆ *Progress Reports*—Feb 6-8
- ◆ *Student Holiday/ Staff Development*—Feb 6-8
- ◆ *Cheer Camp*—Jan 21
- ◆ *Free Casual*—Feb 22



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- Never upload (post) pictures of yourself, or your friends/family on the Internet or send to anyone you do not know personally.
- Periodically check your child's cell phone use and text messages to see with whom your child is communicating.

For additional safety tips visit www.onguardonline.gov.

Final Exams

Final exams for the first semester are quickly approaching. In order to be exempted from a high school final exam, a student must have a grade average of 93 in that class with no unexcused absences. (Three unexcused tardies to school equals an unexcused absence.) **Students have 10 days from the date of the absence to dispute unexcused absences by contacting the office (see handbook, pg. 13)** All finals will take place the week of December 12th. December 14th, 15th and 16th will be half days (8:00 to 11:35) during which students may dress in casual clothing. No planned absences will be approved during the week of finals (See the handbook, page 13).

Dare to Soar 2012-2013 Re-Enrollment Kickoff

Please make plans to attend our re-enrollment kickoff on January 10th at 7:00pm in the gym. For your convenience the school is going to offer dinner in the cafeteria beginning at 6:00pm for \$6. Although this event is for adults only, we do not want childcare to be the reason you miss this event. Therefore, we will offer childcare at a cost for those of you who are unable to secure a babysitter. Come hear from the board and administration for a look at the new year. All teachers will be in attendance and available to visit with you. Please look at the newsletter available online for more information to come.

As secondary students get older, they should take more and more responsibility for their education. One way that they can do this is by checking grades and homework assignments posted in RenWeb themselves. The school can set up student logins for your children. If you would like to do this, just call Kerry McMahon in the office (250.1369), and he will be happy to assist you.

If there are specific subjects that you would like for me to address in next quarter's *Secondary Scoop*, please feel free to email me. Thanks for your continued support and for entrusting to us your wonderful children.

Christmas blessings,

Georgia Hensley

Secondary Principal