SPARTA HIGH SCHOOL

Home of the Spartans

December 18, 2015

- **Concurrent Enrollment:** Sparta High School is in our first year of offering Concurrent Enrollment classes in partnership with Ferris State University. Concurrent enrollment is an "early college" option that allows high school students to earn academic credit that will transfer to colleges and universities. Students receive the rigor of college courses, taught by SHS instructors, and do not have to leave our campus. Academic credit transfers to numerous colleges and universities in Michigan. This year we are offering the following Ferris State Courses: Care 102, English 150 Writing, English 150 Literature.

- **Student Reflection on Concurrent Enrollment:**

Hey Mr. Spencer,

I just wanted to let you know how much I love being able to take the Ferris classes this year. English 150 became a class I really enjoyed and excelled in. It was mostly writing, but different writing than I'm used to which really helped me round out my skills. It was more creative pieces with less structure which felt very different because we're so used to writing 5 paragraph essays. At first it was kind of awkward to write on such abstract topics but Mrs. Thompson did a great job explaining it. I went to CMU for a scholarship competition and we had to write a timed essay. The question was so broad and open ended that if it hadn't been for that Ferris class, I would have been totally lost. It was structured to basically not allow us to use a 5 paragraph essay, which I would have been really freaked out about, but since I was already comfortable writing less structured, I did just fine, and I'm actually really proud of that piece. The class, overall, has really helped me feel much more prepared for college. It gave me an accurate idea of the work load I can expect and I think it will make the transition a lot easier. The only thing I would suggest is maybe doing something more like a college schedule such as Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or maybe just something like that so it's completely like a college class, but for it being the first year, I think it went exceedingly well.

Thanks,
Rory Barnes

- **Building Positive School Culture:** Upon entering the building on Monday morning (December 14), I noticed that essentially every locker had been posted with a sticky note. Had it been closer to Graduation, I would have thought that the seniors were up to some shenanigans. Upon inspection, each note had a positive and /or motivation message for students. What a great way to engage students on a Monday morning! Although it was done without my knowledge, I am thankful that our National Honors Society took this initiative and made the start of our week positive and special.

- **Athletic Accomplishments:** Congratulations to our Wrestling and Girls' Bowling teams. Both programs started their season with tournament championships. Go Spartans!

- **Winter School (Repeat):** Winter School will be held on Tuesday, December 29th and Wednesday, December 30th. Students can make up time due to absences and work (as agreed upon with their teacher) in a learning environment staffed by SHS teachers. Winter School runs from 8:00 am – 11:00 am, and is held in the Library.

- **Holiday Break (Repeat):** SHS wishes all of our families a safe and relaxing break. The last day of attendance before break is Friday, December 18th, 2015. Students will return to school on Monday, January 4th, 2016.

ENSURING SUCCESS FOR ALL SPARTANS!