

The SIC, a state mandated council made up of students, parents, teachers and staff, has worked closely all year with PIE (Partners in Education), AMF (Academic Magnet Foundation), and the Athletic Booster Club to address the needs of the school and support future initiatives to propel Magnet students to even greater heights. This year our team identified the need for enhanced College Prep services at Academic Magnet High School.

To address this need, the SIC developed a seminar series that launched in February 2022. The seminar series, taking place during Focus (study hall) once a month, covers topics relevant to each grade level. Seminars are led by staff, guidance, alumni, mentors, college reps and outside experts. Those conducted to date include:

|            | February                                    | March                        | April   |
|------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| Freshmen   | Mental Health & Erin's Law                  | Organization & Communication | Course Selection & Rigor                      |
| Sophomores | Mental Health & Erin's Law                  | College Admissions Reps      | AP Courses at AMHS                            |
| Juniors    | How to Find the Right College & Erin's Law  | Scholarship Opportunities    | South Carolina College Admissions Reps        |
| Seniors    | Your First Semester at College & Erin's Law | Financial Management         | Transition from High School to College Part 2 |

With funding provided by AMF, the School Improvement Council was also able to offer low cost SAT/ACT Prep to AMHS Juniors and Sophomores prior to the March test dates. Conducted virtually by a local provider, this day long SAT prep crash course, was just for AMHS students. SIC anticipates this type of workshop, supported by AMF, will be offered to AMHS students going forward so their unique needs and questions are addressed and all students have the opportunity to benefit from test prep services.

In addition, we have planned Juniors Take Flight, a day long symposium for AMHS Juniors taking place prior to summer break. This program will help students prepare for the College Application process covering topics including essay writing, resume creation and asking for recommendations.

SIC has also supported the continuation of the current Peer Mentoring and Summer Scholars Programs. In an effort to ease the transition for incoming AMHS students, the Peer Mentoring Program was inaugurated in the 2018-2019 school year. The program recruits and trains over 30 sophomores, juniors, and seniors to work in small groups and one-on-one with entering 9th graders. Peer Mentors are role models and leaders at AMHS, and are committed to helping incoming freshmen make the most of their high school years! In the summers, Peer Educators from the College of Charleston partner with AMHS Mentors to assist with training and planning, and to provide the Peer Mentors with ongoing professional development.

With financial support from AM Foundation, the Summer Scholars Program is a four day program for incoming 9th grade students and included academic awareness sessions and team building activities as a first activity for the new students to begin to understand what it means to be a "high school" student and to make friends for the coming year. Incoming students are introduced to Peer Mentors and engage in a variety of activities. The program has been instrumental in reducing stresses associated with high school unknowns and in building confidence and new friendships.

The AMHS School Improvement Council looks forward to even greater cohesiveness as all the parent groups work together to ensure that AMHS can continue to offer its students a high school experience of the highest quality. With the full realization of the challenges in connecting all of our AMHS stakeholders resulting from the effects of the pandemic, the SIC and other parent support groups are creatively and vigorously reaching out to our community in new and exciting ways. The SIC has elections for parents, students, and community members in October and is always looking for interested individuals to join us in supporting the excellence that is Academic Magnet.