

SIGONELLA MHS

UPCOMING EVENTSNOVEMBER

- 7 HS St Council Mtg. rm. 267 1:30
- 7 ASVAB test in rm 240 1:05
- 8 **Choices Night 4:15 GYM.**
- 12 **HOLIDAY No School**
- 13 **Parent teacher conferences -No school**
- 14 SAC Meeting in IC 3:00
- 15 Early Release for students **12:20 dismissal**
- 15 Fall sports banquet 6:00
- 19 Class meetings 1:30
- 22-23 **Thanksgiving Holiday- No School**
- 29 MS musical Knight's Hall

DECEMBER

- 4 Senior class meeting 5:00 pm rm 170
- 6 PTSO board Mtg. 9:30 PTSO rm.
- 6 Burrito sales day!
- 6 Chorus & Instrumental Concert
- 7 HS St Council Mtg. rm. 267 1:30
- 8 ACT test room 169 7:30
- 7-8 Home BBall games vs MMI
- 11 Grade level class meetings 1:30.
- 13 Early withdrawal date with credit for students accelerating for PSC move
- 17-19 Broadway Musical Auditions
- 22 Winter Break Begins

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Parents,

This November newsletter has information about upcoming events within the school. The fall and winter months are always busy with the holidays and the events planned to celebrate those holidays. Attached to this newsletter are the November and December monthly calendars to help remind us of important dates! If you are PSCing mid-school year, please read and take note of the DoDDS acceleration policy on page 7. In certain situations students can be afforded the opportunity to leave our school early with semester credit. If PCSing before the school year ends, as parents, you will need to plan to meet with the counselor well in advance of your move.

Congratulations to the cross country and volleyball teams who just returned from Europeans and gave their best Jaguar effort during competition. Not only



were our athletes competitive, but they also represented Sigonella with pride at the events!

We hope to see all students and parents at 4:15 this Thursday November 8th in Bldg 220 for "Choices Night." The night will begin in the gym with a welcome, followed by several informative break out sessions. Invitations went out to all HS and MS parents via e-mail. We are excited Ms. Brenda Coffield from MCEC (Military Child Education Coalition) will join us as our keynote speaker. Sessions will be geared towards parents and students. The PTSO will be selling soup, bread and fixings for those who wish to have a warm bowl of soup for dinner. This event is a community endeavor and we appreciate all those who have supported the school to make this an informative evening.

Parents of athletes, please note the awards banquet for falls sports will be on November 15th in Knight's Hall.

Other upcoming events highlighted in this newsletter are, winter concerts, information on parent teacher conferences held on Nov. 13th, and information on athletics games and events. Thank you for your continued support of Sigonella MHS.

Ali *Alice R Berard*

SIGONELLA SMOKE-OUT

iPODS AND MOBILE PHONES

This is to remind parents students are NOT allowed to use their iPods in school.

Just like mobile phones, if a student is using their iPod during school hours it will be taken and returned to parents.

iPods like mobile phones must be OFF during school hours (7:45-2:30) including lunchtime.

We encourage students to leave their iPod at home.

If you have any questions please contact the school at 624-4281.

November 15, 2012 is the Great American Smoke Out. The Great American Smoke Out began in 1971 as an outgrowth of Andrew Mulaney asking people to give up smoking for a day and give the money usually spent on cigarettes to a high school scholarship fund. Then in 1974, Lynn Smith, editor of the Monticello Times in Minnesota, spearheaded the first D-Day or Don't Smoke Day. The idea soon caught on in other areas. On November 18th, 1976, the California division of the American Cancer Society, got nearly 1 million smokers to quit for the day. This event marked the first Smoke Out and the Cancer

Society took it nationwide in 1977. Each year the Smoke Out draws attention to the deaths and chronic diseases caused by smoking. Many states and local governments banned smoking in restaurants and workplaces, raised taxes on cigarettes, and limited cigarette promotions to discourage teen cigarette use. These efforts to reduce smoking continue today. Because of these efforts, there has been significant landmarks in the areas of research and policy. Unfortunately 1 in 5 adults in the US still smoke cigarettes (over 45 million people) and about 15 million people smoke tobacco in

cigars or pipes. Lung cancer is the leading cause of death for men and women with more than 80% of lung cancer deaths thought to be related to smoking. Smoking is responsible for nearly 1 in 3 cancer deaths. Another 8.6 million people live with serious illnesses caused by smoking. Fortunately, we have seen great strides in the past few decades to changing attitudes about smoking, understanding the addiction, and learning how to help people quit. Visit www.cancer.org to learn more about quitting smoking, improving your health or getting involved with the Great American Smoke Out.

MS STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

In October the middle school students held their student council elections. After listening to the candidate speeches, and holding elections, the following students were elected to represent their peers as student council reps.

Please congratulate the following students for their efforts as they lead their classes in planning events and taking the responsibility of student leadership:

- President - J. Frianeza
- Vice President- K. Chandler
- Treasurer- K.VanWynsberghe
- Secretary- C. Schumacher
- Parliamentarian- C. Schumacher
- 7th Grade Rep.- G. Peterson
- 6th Grade Rep.- K. Peterson

Parent Emergency Contact Information

It is vital that we maintain updated emergency contact information for each of our students. Please let the school know immediately if you have any changes in your contact information including home phone number, cell phone numbers, work phone numbers, physical address, as well as phone numbers for individuals designated as the emergency contact person. It is

also important if you move houses to contact Mr. Grasso in the transportation office at 624-3244 so he can update transportation information accordingly. As you are aware, e-mail is one way the school can communicate to you at home or work. As such, we also like to maintain an updated e-mail address for each student's family so communications such as newsletters

and other important information can be sent home electronically. Please contact Ms. I. Larson at: 624-4284 in the school office to update any changes to your child's information. You can confirm information currently on file by looking at your child's MyDATA account.

Jaguar Pride



Parent Teacher Conferences

Parents! It's that time of year again: time for parent-teacher conferences at Sigonella MS/HS. Parent-teacher conferences will be Monday, **November 13th, from 9:45- 1:00 in the school cafeteria.** We ask that you come in plenty of time to see your child's teachers.

Meetings between teachers and parents are an opportunity to build trust and understanding between the home and school environments. Parent involvement is critical to students and their educational experience.

If you have a scheduling conflict, please let your child's teachers know, and they will do everything

possible to accommodate those who need to make alternate arrangements.

Listed below are some questions parents may want to ask teachers during a conference. These are recommended by the **National Association of School Public Relations.**

Questions Parents Want to Ask Teachers During a Conference

- Is my child doing as well as he/she should academically?
- Is he/she working to his/her ability?
- What are the standards and the texts used?
- How is my child getting along in indi-

vidual subjects?

- How can I help my child at home with his/her schoolwork?
- How is his/her behavior?
- What's the best way to communicate with you? Phone, e-mail, handwritten notes, etc.
- How about DODEA's myDATA portal? What information may be available to me through myDATA for your class? (only for grades 4-12)

If you have any questions about upcoming Parent-Teacher conferences, please contact Sigonella MS/HS at 624-4281.

CHOICES: PLANNING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Sigonella Middle High School is hosting "CHOICES: Planning After High School" on November 8, 2012, from 16:15-18:40 at the school. This event is open to all middle and high school families and will be helpful for any family as they make future plans for their child. The purpose of CHOICES is to expose students and parents to information about the various options for education and work choices after their high school graduation.

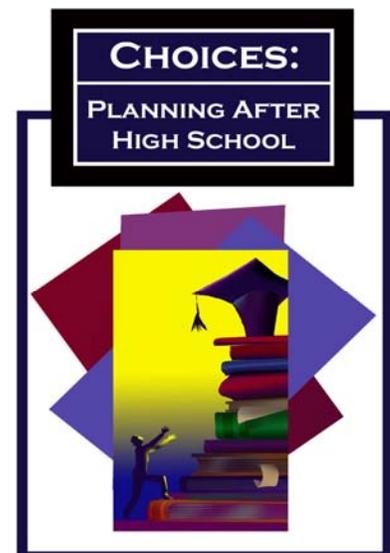
Presentations focusing on different educational opportunities include:

- Navy College opportunities at Sigonella
- Post-911 GI Bill information
- Financing for College
- Aspen/Gradebook MyDATA tool
- College and Career Opportunities by our key note speaker, Ms. B. Coffield of MCEC.

Throughout the afternoon and evening, there will be a "College Expo" in the school's Information Center where alumni will be available to talk about their Al-

ma Matter and can give information, and/or virtual tours as well as other information about their university. Students and families will also have access to "grab and go" tables where college brochures and literature will be available.

CHOICES is the perfect first step to explore the variety of options available after graduation. Don't miss out...join Sigonella Middle High School for CHOICES...PLANNING AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.



CYBER CAFÉ OPPORTUNITIES

It's 3:45 p.m. Do you know where your children are? They could be studying or completing their homework in CyberCafé. A Student Enrichment Activity/Homework Club, CyberCafe, continues to be available this school year with Ms. Arnold and Ms. Holland as the supervising teacher/advisors. Students meet in the Information Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00. At CyberCafé students have time to study and/or complete homework, finish exams or projects and catch up with their reading. Students are also able to use computers and receive help

from tutors. The activity bus is available for students who stay the entire time in Cyber-Cafe. Peer-to-peer tutoring is also available as students find that they can often help each other. Departure from Cyber Café prior to 5:00



Cyber-Café is a great way to get help from teachers or just provide time to complete

requires a note signed by a parent or a coach.

We would love to have knowledgeable adults from the community in the various curricular areas help tutor students at Cyber Café. If you find Math, Science, English, Spanish, Italian, Social Studies, History, or any Middle/High School subjects easy to explain and would like to volunteer, please e-mail Ms. Arnold to offer your services. Our Jaguar students would love to receive additional help from our community members.

SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT TEST (SAT)

The SAT Reasoning Test is one of the most widely used college admission tests. Some colleges may also require SAT Subject Tests (SAT II). Check the admission requirements of the individual colleges to see which exams you need to take.

SMHS SAT testing dates for SY 2012-2013 are as follows:
01 December, 26 January 2013, 04 May 2013, 01 June 2013

Register on-line at www.collegeboard.com
You must register "Outside the US" Please give yourself plenty of time to register before international deadlines.

Here are some important codes you will need in order to complete the process:

School Code: 577100

Test Center Code: 58395

The cost is \$50 for the SAT I. The SAT II is \$23 plus \$12 for each subject area test. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. La Rocca (DSN 624-4281) or Ms. Ascierito-LeBlanc (DSN 624-4284). Students are no longer permitted to request changes to the test date, test center, or test type on the day of the test

SAT is administered Saturdays at the high school. Walk-in registration is no longer available - waitlist registration can be requested online. Doors open at 7:30 A.M. Students are directed to meet in the lobby near the main office. Students are encouraged to arrive by 7:45 A.M. Testing begins promptly at 8:00 A.M. No one will be admitted into the test after that time. Students are responsible for bringing the necessary items for testing. Students must have a picture ID to be admitted to the test. Students will NOT be admitted without an admission ticket and proper identification (even if we know them personally) The test-taker's admission ticket information must match the test roster. Please visit the College Board website for additional information concerning the new registration procedures.



NEWS FROM THE PTSO



Jaguar Families,

First of all we want to say thank you to the families who chaperoned and brought goodies to the Middle School Dance. The kids had a great time! Remember, for future events, discounts on tickets may be available for students of PTSO members.

Congratulations to K. Peterson winner of the Red Ribbon Cartoon contest and Mikayla Garcia for the Red Ribbon Poem Contest. PTSO donated \$25.00 NEX Gift Cards for each of the winners, candy for the banner signatures and temporary tattoos. This month the PTSO also funded the \$200.00 entry fee for Model Senate Conference and reimbursement of supplies for the Chess Club.

Please remember if you haven't yet joined and plan to, membership is always open. Our membership is down this year and this may impact our ability to fund 100% of the activities we usually do. Membership fees play a large role in our annual fundraising. Remember, membership doesn't mean you have to volunteer. We'd like to announce the winners of the PTSO Membership drive.

The winners are:

6th Grade Mr. Arnot & McKown tied
7th Grade Ms. Capiral
8th Grade Mr. McCarthy
9th Grade Mr. Syrkel
10th Grade Mr. Corey
11th Grade Mr. Waddell
12th Grade Ms. Bohon

The winners of the PTSO membership drive for middle school will win food court passes and for the high school, a pizza party sponsored by PTSO.

November 8th is Choices Night. PTSO sponsors the evening by providing hot soup and bread for the attendees. If you can making a pot of soup for the event please contact the PTSO at PTSOsigonella@gmail.com. We also need a few families who can attend to help setup and clean up. your help, time and effort are greatly appreciated!

Our next PTSO meeting is **0930 in the PTSO room on December 6th.**

Thank you for your support!

The PTSO Board

Attention all high school athletes:

Your GPA is checked at the beginning of each season for eligibility. For the winter sports season 1st quarter GPA will be used to determine athletic eligibility and if students are on "academic probation". Any athlete who does not have a 2.0 or better and/or has more than 1 F in their 1st quarter grades, will be placed on "academic probation status" and will be on the 3 week ineligibility list for winter sport season. During the 3-week ineligibility period, athletes may practice but they will be ineligible to play while on probationary status. These three week checks and ineligibility to play checks will continue throughout the season for players who do not meet 2.0 GPA. See Ms. Chandler with any questions.

NAVAGATING MYDATA FOR PARENTS

In DODEA's myData, attendance and grades are visible in two places: the family tab and academic tabs. To find information and a short explanation of what you will see there, go to myDATA and follow the directions below

Attendance

To see attendance for your child via the two different methods go to:

Family tab and select **Daily Attendance** on left vertical bar. *This attendance is put in by the front office for athletic trips, illness and appointments when parents call, email, or provide note to the office. The front office selects Absent Excused as appropriate by reason given to us by the parent.*

Academic tab and then select **Attendance** on the left vertical bar.

This attendance is put in by the teacher for the class period.

od. Absences submitted by teachers are categorized separately. Teachers are only required to put in "A" for absent. They cannot mark a reason for the absence. Students can be present for the day, but also be absent for a class period. This is why there may be a difference in the absence reports.

Please view both attendance areas for a complete picture of your students attendance at school.

Grades

To see grades for your child via the two different methods go to:

Family tab and then select **Transcript** on the left vertical bar.

The grades under the family tab are the grades at certain intervals for progress, i.e., mid-term grades, weekly reports, or quarter or semester reports. These

grades are not as current as the grades under the Academic tab.

Academic tab and then select a particular course.

The course will show the last posted grade the same as under the family tab.

Select Assignments on the left vertical bar. You will see the percentage and points for each assignment, test, quiz or project. *These points, percentages and grades reflect the current status of your child in that class.*

If you have any questions, feel free to contact I. Larson by phone, 624-4284.

We appreciate your patience with us as we all learn this new program. If you do not have a myDATA account, please contact Ms. Larson and she will get you started on your account information.

ACT

The ACT exam is a widely accepted college admissions test. The ACT measures the four curricular areas of English, Mathematics, Science, and Reading. An optional 30-minute Writing Test is offered on the October, December, and June International Test dates.

Signonella High School ACT testing dates for SY 2012-2013 are as follows:

08 December 2012 PLUS WRITING (Registration Deadline 02 Nov 12)

09 February 2013 (Registration Deadline 11 Jan 13)

08 June 2013 PLUS WRITING (Registration Deadline 03 May 13)

Registration for the ACT is on



-line at

<http://www.actstudent.org>

You will not see the school listed and must enter the Test Center Code 867630 to complete your registration. In order to receive the DoDDS waiver for the international fee, secure a voucher from Mrs. La Rocca prior to registering - the waiver cannot be applied after registration has been completed. The cost is \$35 for the ACT, or \$50.50 for the ACT Plus Writing.

Choices Night Guest Speaker

A native of North Carolina, Ms B. Coffield holds a Bachelors degree in Health & Physical Education from Winston-Salem State University and a Master degree in Guidance and Counseling from Trinity University, Washington, DC. Currently, Ms. Coffield is the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) Europe Program Manager. She has held this newly created position since March 2010.

Prior to assuming this position, she was the Army Europe "School Transition Specialist" from 2003 to 2010 where she worked with the superintendents in DoDDS-Europe to increase commodities among school systems supporting military affiliated children and youth. Her work background also includes: 18 years as a High School Guidance Counselor, of which 16 years were in the DoDDS-Europe Kaiserslautern, Germany district (Ramstein & Kaiserslautern HS); 5 years Personnel Manager, Emporium Capwell and The Broadway (California); and 7 years as a teacher in the Washington, DC public schools.

She currently serves as a member of the Board of the USA Girl Scouts Overseas-North Atlantic and chairs the Nominating Committee. Brenda has received many awards and certificates recognizing her "giving back" to the community. Most recently, she was the recipient of the Phi Delta Kappa Germany Chapter Philanthropic award and AFRICOM certificate of appreciation from GEN William "Kip" Ward.

Ms. Coffield's accomplishments include: original MCEC Transition Counselor Institute (TCI) trainer; organized the first "European College Night"; developed and distributed a comprehensive list of European Colleges/Universities for American students wishing to attend an English speaking European college/university; publishing a monthly "Guidance Newsletter" which was shared with other DoDEA schools; served as DoDDS-E liaison and organizer of a "1 of a Kind" International Student Leadership Institute (ISLI) for 5 years; recognized by Maryland State Department of Education /Economic/and Employment for assistance with Maryland Summer Youth Survey; and received special recognition for assisting in the organization of the Career Education Department Bowie state College. She was also featured in: "Welcome to Europe Guide" magazine (October-January 2004) issue; Armed Forces Press Service (Aug. 2002); and "Military Lifestyle" (Aug. 2001).

Brenda is honored to be working for the Military Child Education Coalition on behalf of ALL Military-connected Children whether they are under the DoDEA umbrella, Homeschooled, or attending an International School. She looks forward to being able to continue delivering services and meeting their needs as they transition from one location to the next. She believes that ATTITUDE can be the difference between success and failure.

Athletic Team Information

Winter Season Begins

Basketball, Wrestling, and Cheerleading Teams can begin practicing on Monday, November 12th. Any student interested in participating in a winter sport must have a current physical on file to participate or practice with the teams. If you do not have a physical, please get one so you can start practice! For further information M. Chandler, Athletic Director at 624-3783.



Fall Sports Awards Ceremony

Come celebrate the accomplishments of all our Fall 2012 athletes!
Thursday, November 15th @ 1800 Knight's Hall

We will be having a potluck dinner and would like to ask parents to contribute MAIN dish suitable to feed a family of four.

The Jaguar Booster Club will provide drinks, paper goods and dessert.

Acceleration with Credit

According to DoDDS regulations, a student that is withdrawing within **20 school days** of the end of the semester **DUE TO SPONSOR PCSING ORDERS** may be eligible to receive semester credit by course acceleration. This requires completing assignments in advance and taking the final semester examinations to receive semester credit **For school year 12-13, the earliest date a student may withdraw from school under an accelerated program is the 13th of December 2012 and 16th of May 2013. Students must attend the full day prior to the withdrawal dates.**

The parent must notify the registrar at least 30 days prior to departure and provide a copy of the PCS orders to the school to begin the acceleration process. The counselor will hold a meeting with student, sponsor, and teachers to develop an acceleration plan. The following guidelines must be followed:

- At the acceleration meeting, the student, sponsor, and all teachers will sign a contract and discuss the advance assignments and due dates of all work, exams, and final projects. Acceleration privileges will NOT be granted for any course that a student is failing. The school recommends that any student requesting to accelerate have at least a 2.5 GPA.
- Students must coordinate with the teachers a time to take the semester exams. Semester exams are 20% of the final grade and are required for students in Grades 9-12 or any HS course.
- Upon satisfactory completion of all assignments and final exams/projects, the student will be granted semester credit.** A copy of grades on the withdrawal form will be made available on the date of withdrawal. An official transcript will be forwarded once final grades are posted. Sponsors are requested to leave a forwarding address with the Registrar.
- During the acceleration period, accelerating students who are absent from school may jeopardize their acceleration privileges. The principal reserves the right to make all determinations regarding the acceleration program.

DID YOU KNOW?

Jaguars, the largest of South America's big cats, once roamed much of the Americas. Today they are found in only a few remote regions.



Fast Facts

Type: Mammal

Diet: Carnivore

Average life span in the wild: 12 to 15 years

Size: Head and body, 5 to 6 ft (1.5 to 1.8 m); tail, 27.5 to 36 in (70 to 91 cm)

Weight: 100 to 250 lbs (45 to 113 kg)

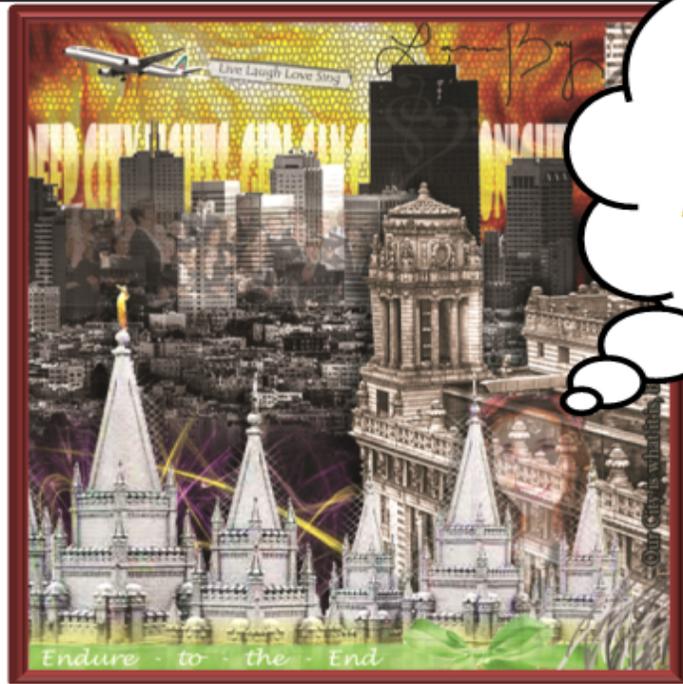
Protection status: Near Threatened

Size relative to a 6-ft (2-m) man:



Info taken from:
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/jaguar/>

YEARBOOK



**CALLING ALL
ARTISTS AND
AUTHORS!**

*Get your Artwork Published
in the Yearbook now!*

This year a new section has been added to the yearbook allowing you to show off your creative efforts. We are accepting short stories, plays/scripts, poetry, non-fiction writing, paintings, drawings, clay art, sculptures, digital imaging, and photo journalism.

There are limited pages for the middle school and high school entries in the arts section, so the best submissions in each category will be published.

All artwork must be photographed and the .jpg photo must be submitted online along with an online entry. All writing entries must be submitted as Microsoft Word documents.

To enter your submission go to;

<http://lewis.sigmhs.mdso.eportalnow.net/yearbook-arts-page-entry.html?submit-confirm>

The password for this site is SigonellaMHS1213

The deadline for submissions is December 14, 2012. Don't be a procrastinator, get your entry in early!

(Name/Grade):

(Seminar Teacher):

(Email):

(Type of Artwork):

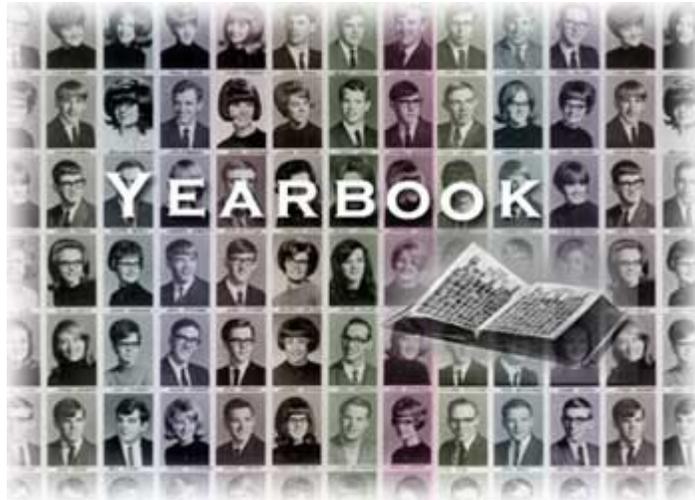
The Sigonella 2012-2013 Sigonella Middle School/ High School Yearbook is now on sale!!

Please make checks payable to the "Student Activity Fund."

Prices will be:

\$60 From October 16 - November 16

Turn in Money and Completed Order Forms to Ms. Vickie Lewis (room 232) or the front office



Date Paid: _____ Receipt Number: _____

Student Name(s): _____

Grade (s): _____ Seminar teacher: _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Are you PSC'ing prior to June 1st? Yes or No (circle one)

If yes, add \$10.00 for shipping to the total and provide a mailing address for the book to be sent to:

Mailing Address:

FOR YEARBOOK USE

How Many Books: _____

Total: _____

Check Number: _____

Cash: Yes or No

Book Number: _____

Received By Name: _____

Sigonella Middle/
High School

PSC 812 Box 2630
FPO AE 09627

DSN: 624-4281
commercial: 095-56-3899
E-mail:
sigonellahs.principal@eu.dodea.edu

Get daily information at:

<http://sigmhs.mdso.eportalnow.net>

Home of the Jaguars!



**Yearbooks Are On
Sale!**

Did you get your yearbook at our introduction price? Missed that deadline... Order before November 21st to get your yearbook before prices go up again. See the attached yearbook purchase form for information and prices.

Are you **a parent of SMHS senior? Has your child accomplished something you'd like to recognize?** Congratulations ads can purchased in year's yearbook and are now on sale. To purchase your space contact Ms. Lewis Space is limited!

**THE VISION OF SIGONELLA MHS
IS TO PREPARE
LIFE-LONG LEARNERS,
LEADERS AND GLOBAL CITIZENS.**

Sigonella's Guiding Principles:

Stimulating learning environment for all students
Inspiring life-long learners
Commitment to excellence
Interacting with respect, kindness and joy
Leadership, ethics, and integrity
Young adults prepared to enter our global society

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL NOTES

Can you believe the first nine weeks of school have already come and gone? As I reflect on my first quarter at Sigonella I can't accurately project with words the sense of pride I take in calling myself a Jaguar. You have all so quickly made my family and I feel welcome in our new community. As we approach the new quarter many students have found themselves wondering where they go from here. In my daily rounds I find myself constantly mentoring students to be self-advocates for their education.

If there is one thing I would like for students to understand it's that our teachers are reasonable people with high expectations. At Sigonella we aim to prepare our students to be highly functional and exceptionally capable adults. During my daily rounds I also find myself exceptionally impressed by the conversations I have with teachers who share a genuine interest in helping students excel. Unfortunately, I have found many of



our students feel embarrassed or even afraid to approach their teachers with even the most basic questions. Teachers aren't mind readers and when students delay in asking for help they often appear to be doing too little too late. Teachers **do** want to help students succeed, however students **must** ask clarifying questions so teachers can identify gaps in current and prior knowledge. Please encourage your student to have the wonder and imagination they had as young children. Challenge your student daily to question, respectfully and politely, why they are learning what they are learning and why it's important. Teach them to ask questions regarding applicability of daily knowledge gain to practical application. Research

shows when students are able to generate and test hypothesis from their own learning experiences they ultimately retain and are able to apply the information learned. Please encourage your student to seek help when needed so we can ensure they are reaching the highest and deepest levels of understanding regarding presented subject matter. We are committed to ensuring students gain an in-depth understanding of topics covered. We want students to encounter a vast educational experience enabling them to become master learners, thinkers and doers.

If you have any questions regarding student self-advocacy or other topics concerning the education of your student do not hesitate to call me at 624-3249.

D. Williams