

Parent & student give advice to junior parents

BY ANNA AND LINDA MORRISON

Your child's experience at NCSSM can be an extremely rewarding experience not only for them, but also for you. Here are some ways you as parents can help make Science and Math one of the best experiences of your child's life, despite the obstacles they might face.

Homesickness

For most of you, this is the first time that you are living without your child for an extended period of time. He or she may experience homesickness to some degree. One way to handle homesickness is to postpone visits, particularly at the beginning of the year. This will help your child learn how to deal with many of the routines you used to handle (such as money management and laundry.) Weekend visits or letters indicating how much you miss them may inhibit their learning experience...particularly that of independence. Homesickness is the most prevalent reason students leave, not grades.

Academics

The academic requirements are different than that of a regular high school. PLEASE understand that your child may not make the high grades that they used to make. Also the first few weeks away will put a strain on their academic performance. Reassurance from you

can help if your child calls home upset about a grade. Remind them that they are in a very different environment, and that help is readily available. One of the greatest things about NCSSM is that there is no class ranking so competition exists only within your child, and other students are more than willing to help each other.

Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are a vital part of the NCSSM community. Over 90% of students participate in Intramurals, half are involved in a sport or club, and popular weekend events, such as Coffeehouse, are widely attended. These are the ways that many students meet their closest friends and enjoy their company. The best part is that parents are involved in and helped make possible many of these activities by way of the Parents' Council.

Parent Interaction

There are many opportunities to visit NCSSM. Chorus, band, and orchestra hold weekend concerts so parents can see their child perform. The Drama Club presents its plays on weekends as well. Many sports, such as soccer and baseball, have weekend games so parents can support their child and the team. Living away from home does not mean that your child is living completely away from you.

Weekends: Stay on campus

BY AMY CHEN

Most people feel some touch of homesickness when they get to Science and Math and want to go home to their families those first few weeks. But that is about the worst thing that you can do.

These first weeks are when you are going to make connections with the people who will become your friends. Like any other school, NCSSM also has its version of cliques. The cliques here may not be as tight and exclusive as they may have been at your old school but they are still there. And it may be difficult to break into one once established.

For the first month or two, try to stay in school on the weekends. These first few months will be the most entertaining since it is when you will be meeting everyone and the most will be going on. I'm not saying that going home for a weekend or two will ruin your social life. But it is much easier to meet everyone while they are still in the "Hi! My name is..." mood.

Also, often teachers will assign long-term group projects and if you are not here on the weekends, it makes it impossible for the group to get together and complete the project. With everyone having such busy schedules during the week, the weekend may be the only time for your group to meet.

The people who complain most and have the least amount of fun at NCSSM are the people who insist on going home every weekend. They miss a lot while they're gone.

Counseling Services

BY GAIL HUDSON

With much excitement, the Counseling Services staff looks forward to interacting with you as we work together for an academically and personally gratifying NCSSM journey.

We'll meet with each of you in our Counseling Services sessions during orientation. You and your parents are encouraged to attend College Eve on Sept 26th during the NCSSM Family Weekend. Please make a note that, as soon as life settles down, we'd love for you to make an appointment to see your counselor. Your counselor wants to provide you with support and assistance as you make emotional, social and academic adjustments.

Our staff offers personal counseling in individual and group settings, academic counseling, college planning, and special-topic group sessions. We welcome you to share your needs and concerns with us and to let us know how we can help you as you adjust to your new life at NCSSM.

Starting Sept 29th, our office is open until 7 p.m. Monday -Thursday. During that time, college representatives come in to meet with students. This time is good to meet with representatives individually or in small groups to get questions answered and to find out all you want to know about certain schools.

Watch our bulletin board on the Reynolds Breezeway to find out who is coming when, as well as to read about other pertinent information from the Counseling Services Office.

Not your typical math class

BY PEGGY CRAFT

When you sign up for a math class at NCSSM, be prepared for it to be unlike any math class you've ever taken before. The rigorous math curriculum uses tools and technology for solving problems and creates opportunities for students to experience the process of attacking problems and discovering ideas independently. The trick is to make its differences work for you.

NCSSM math makes frequent use of technology, so learn how to make effective use of it! To use technology with a problem that's better done without it will (at best) waste your time—the same applies if you avoid technology when the problem calls for it.

Math problems always require thought, don't just "do the problems like we did them in class." Teachers often set the stage for you to discover ideas, rather than just tell you about them. Be sure you understand why, not just how. And remember that math problems often have more than one "right" answer, so don't cheat yourself by taking shortcuts.

NCSSM-written math books (Precalculus and Calculus I and II) are well written and you may be expected to learn by reading them. Take enough time, think about what you are

reading and take notes. It's a valuable skill to take off to college and into the real world.

Classes are highly interactive. You can stay involved by asking good questions, volunteering to present homework problems, and getting involved in class discussions. Take notes during class and transcribe them each evening as part of your homework time.

Classes also usually contain a lot of group work, both in class and for outside assignments.

Learn how to work effectively in this setting: focus on communication, be clear about setting tasks and meeting times, listen and talk with respect, and be sure everyone in the group understands the whole project. If you have trouble with your group, ask for help immediately.

These classes almost always move quickly. As soon as you

feel confused, ask for help. Get clarification on any concepts, techniques or technology that you don't understand. Don't wait until you are feeling lost.

NCSSM is a wonderful place for the student who wants to learn how to think. If NCSSM isn't working for you, ask for help. Communicating your needs is an important skill for every student to learn.

Math problems always require thought, don't just "do the problems like we did them in class."



Jeremy Kindy, Ashley Forde, Neda Burapavong, and Patty Chen enjoy Calculus class with teacher John Goebel.

**PARENTS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO KEEP A
COPY OF THIS ISSUE.**