

## Seniors Give More Tips for the Class of 2010

BY HILLARY SEYBOLD

Incoming juniors will all soon be learning about the great things NCSSM has to offer each of them. NCSSM is a small but tight community, studying under an experienced and devoted teaching staff, students get all the perks of living within a dorm environment, students have the excitement of Durham right on our front porch, and students get a chance to test the waters of independence as young people endowed with a great opportunity.

However, as with any situation, there is a negative counterpart to every positive light—this is where the stresses associated with NCSSM enter the scene. Because there are so many great people to make lifelong memories with, it is easy to get lost in socializing; it is just as easy to get lost in a sea of textbooks or submerged under the sheets on our beds. Dating has the potential to be a wonderful experience at the same time as it has potential to be a huge stress factor. Being responsible enough to juggle significant others, sleep, study, and friends as well as sports, healthy living, seemingly impossible webassign deadlines, and all sorts of extracurriculars is the mark of an NCSSM student. If you're a junior, you're probably wondering what you got yourself into when you decided to accept the greater challenge—but never fear. Your seasoned and trusty seniors are chock-full of delightful tidbits of advice so that all of you may get a head-start on success.

Jan Jorgenson:

"Study harder than you think you need to first trimester, then you can have the rest of the year to lay off a little if you work too hard"



Gagan Vaseer

Ed.: *Super study (dadadaDUN) is a great opportunity to get homework done without distractions. And, yes, it will end eventually, we promise.*

Ashwin Peres-da-Silva:

"FOLLOW THE TWO WEEK RULE!!! I actually think that it should be a one month rule at least...you need to meet as many people as possible early on because once school gets tough it gets harder to meet people...don't narrow yourself to a few people. [As for the] three S's (sleeping, studying, socializing)—you can have all of them! However, you need to have extreme self-discipline and know when it is time to do what, and you will have to learn how to say no."

Ed.: *The two-week rule is essentially a student-established "guideline" for juniors regarding significant others; in the interest of building lasting friendships (and therefore in your interest), it is generally good practice not to begin dating anyone within the first two weeks of school, though this rule has been broken with fervor, it seems. (I know there are lots of cool sci'mathers here, but whoa, buddy.)*

Holly Campbell:

"I regret not jumping in and making a junkload of friends first thing, so I would advise [juniors] to just get out there and do it, even if it's not really their element."

Ed.: *Holly's right: even if you're not exactly a "social butterfly," you should still be outgoing. After all, everyone else is starting off on new ground, too.*

Gagan Vaseer:

"Use [your] free periods wisely and try to do homework or other important things

in that time. Also...utilize the tutorials that teachers give and ask for help."

Kavya Sekar:

"Don't compare yourself to other people. At Science and math...it's not your goal to be number one in the school—it's your goal to be yourself."



Ethan Henderson

Ed.: *This is a great point—ncssm is a great facilitator for individuality at the same time that it kindles lifelong friendships...it helps that we don't have ongoing class rank competitions to worry about.*

Ethan Henderson:

"Manage your time so you can have fun later...or have fun first and work later!"

Ed.: *I would personally suggest going with the first one, because when you are enjoying the good times that abound here, you won't be constantly worried about assignments. Here at NCSSM, we're able to play hard only because we work hard (or slack hard...but that's not such a wise choice).*

This is just a small sample of the cache of helpful advice which everyone in the senior class can share with you at any time (except during super study). Don't forget that the seniors were exactly where the juniors are now only one short year ago. Well, here's to the start of an amazing experience for the class of 2010—enjoy.

## the stentorian

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## Mamma Mia!: Fun, But Not Epic

BY CAREY AVERBOOK

Seeing Meryl Streep, one of our great actresses, jump on beds and run around a Greek island was a lot of fun. But fun was about it. The movie was enjoyable



and entertaining as long as one suspended their rational thoughts and logic. Time periods were off, details were missed, and Pierce Brosnan's singing can't be described any other way except as absolutely horrid. Fortunately for him, Amanda Seyfried (Sophie) could sing, and, actually, had a very strong voice. If you're in the mood to relax, be entertained, and have a good time, this is a movie for you.