



AHS Parent Newsletter: Friday, Sept. 1

Principal's Message

Happy Friday people. September is here and the smell of pumpkin spice is in the air. A quick reminder that school will not be in session on Monday, September 4, in recognition of Labor Day. School will resume on Tuesday, September 5.

Superintendent's Message – follow- up

I want to follow-up on a letter that the superintendent sent out yesterday detailing an incident earlier in the week, whereby two AHS students had an unwelcome exchange on Park Street with a community member. It turns out this same person was arrested for trespassing last year on campus. These two students immediately reported the incident and district members were able to detain him until APD could arrive. Please encourage your child to report any questionable behavior experienced on campus, and off campus during lunch or before or after school.

Back to School Night

Next Thursday, September 7, is the annual AHS Back to School Night (BTSN) for parents and guardians. We are looking forward to having you all on campus. The evening will start with a brief introduction in Kofman Auditorium at 6:00 pm and then you will run through your child's schedule with each class presentation being 12 minutes long with 7 minutes between each class period. Best to know your child's schedule before coming to school and you can see that on AERIES or have a photo of it on your phone. Note that your child's schedule may have changed since the registration day so best to look on AERIES. This weekend, I will send a post on Parent Square with the flyer for Back to School Night. On the bottom is a table that you can fill in room numbers for your child's classes. Ask your child to assist you if that will help. Zero period will actually run 5 minutes after 6th period for those two sections and the entire night will wrap up before 8:30 pm. A few notes;

- Your child's schedule lists a 7th period as Advisory. That is their SMART period and since there is not a syllabus, credits, or grades connected to that class, we will not run this period at BTSN. You will meet your child's SMART period teacher because they are already one of your child's teachers that they have for one their academic classes.
- A fair number of seniors have an open period on their schedule. This just means that instead of having 6 classes, they have elected to take only 5 classes. Their schedule lists this open period with Ithurnburn as the teacher. This is done for the computer records but there is actually no class for them to attend. I will not be holding any sessions during those periods for open periods.
- If your child is a TA then I would leave it up to you should you wish to attend that teacher's presentation. I can tell you that they will be talking about the academics of that class which would not apply to the TA.
- Parents of students who are TA's or who have an open period can visit one of the tables that leadership students will have or can just visit with friends for that 12-minute block.

Progress Reports

We have just two more weeks until teachers will be preparing their first round of progress reports. This weekend might be a good time to check-in with your child and see if they are missing any assignments or have any work

that is past due. Students can sometimes dig themselves into a hole and in frustration give up when they realize how deep they are. I also want to remind you that students can take advantage of getting help from most of their teachers during the SMART periods that occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Should they need extra help or some re-instruction, encourage them to get a pass to go to that teacher and get the assistance during the SMART period. That way, they do not need to do it outside the school day when it might interfere with other activities.

Club Showcase

If your child hasn't found a niche at AHS. I suggest that you encourage him/her to check out a club, sport or other co-curricular activity here on campus. There really is something for everyone here to experience, and if they don't find something to their liking then they could create a club pertaining to something that does interest them. We'll be having a Club showcase on Friday, September 15, during lunch. I want to encourage any student new to AHS to check out the showcase and see if there is a club that strikes their interest. AHS has over 70 social, political, community service, interest-based, and/or sports-related clubs from which to choose.

Travel Club

Where to next? Computer Science teacher Nancy Read's travel club is at it again with two travel opportunities in 2024! How does ziplining in the jungle canopy, snorkeling in the clear blue Caribbean, exploring Mayan ruins, tubing through caves, and cooking with locals sound? Join us for a 2024 Spring Break trip to Belize! Love nature? Travel to the Peruvian Amazon in summer with us while we explore flora and fauna in the river and in the rainforest. We will also be visiting Lima and Islas Ballestas, often called the poor man's Galapagos. Registering early for these amazing opportunities ensures an affordable experience. Our previous trips to Japan and Costa Rica were huge successes so we are expecting nothing less for this year's trips.

To learn more about either trip, please attend an informational meeting at 7pm on Wednesday, September 13. You can attend in person or on MS Teams. Register for either meeting here [link https://rsvp.eftours.com/u79matm](https://rsvp.eftours.com/u79matm). You can also stop by Mrs. Read's room (A108) during Back to School Night on the September 7 for more information.

School Site Council

Every school has a School Site Council. This group of teachers and parents reviews data and school programs and discusses the schoolwide program and what AHS might do to make improvements. The group meets monthly online for about 75 minutes in the early evenings (Wednesdays). If you are interested or willing to serve on the council, just send me an email with questions or interest to rithurnburn@alamedaunified.org. Once I know who is interested, I'll put out a ballot, should one be needed and then we'll hold our first meeting in October. The council is generally made up of 5 parents, 5 teachers, a student and myself. I believe we have 2 parents returning from last year, but I still need to confirm that. It's always great to get new perspectives, so if you are at all interested then just email me.

Tardy/Detention

In a previous newsletter, I outlined our tardy/detention process. Students late to the first class of the day or the class immediately following lunch will be issued a detention to be served. All of our detentions occur in the cafeteria during lunch so that a student is not denied their opportunity to eat lunch. We send out notices daily to students informing them should they have a detention. Students failing to serve that detention will be given one reminder to make it up the following day. Failure to serve the initial or make-up detention renders a student

ineligible to participate in school social activities AND any game or match should they be on an Alameda High sports team. Students can regain eligibility by serving any unserved detentions but will not be further reminded after that initial reminder. Once a student exceeds 10 tardies/detentions then they are ineligible for the following 3 months. Last year a fair number of students had to sit out activities or sports matches because they failed to serve their detentions. A promise to serve detention the day following a sports match or activities is not an option. Counsel your child if necessary. We don't want students to miss out on activities but will try to maintain our detention program with some fidelity.

I know that I have said this before, and you will read/hear me say it many times again but I want to thank you for your support and for the great kids that you send us. It sounds odd after just reading a section about detentions but we are just trying to help you raise responsible, respectful citizens and adhering to societal expectations is just part of that journey. If you have any questions or concerns you may email me at rithurnburn@alamedaunified.org or you can call the school at (510) 337 – 7022 and I will try to address them.

Robert Ithurburn
Hornet Pride!



ALAMEDA HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, September 4, 2023

All Day

Labor Day No Classes

Tuesday, September 5, 2023 Period 0,1,2,5,smart,6

5:30pm

Women's Volleyball JV vs Skyline

AHS New Gym

6:45pm

Women's Volleyball Varsity vs Skyline

AHS New Gym

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 Periods 0,1,3,4,6

3:30pm

Women's Tennis Varsity vs Campolindo

Alameda Tennis Courts

3:30pm

Women's Tennis JV vs Campolindo

Campolindo HS

TBD

Women's Golf All Levels Match vs Piedmont TBA

Thursday, September 7, 2023 Periods 0,2,3,4,smart,5

5:00pm

Women's Volleyball JV vs Oakland

AHS New Gym

6:00pm

Back to School Night

Kofman/Various Classes

6:45pm

Women's Volleyball Varsity vs Oakland

AHS New Gym

Friday, September 8, 2023 Periods 0-6

8:00am

Women's Tennis Varsity Tournament

J. Logan HS

4:30pm

Men's Football JV vs Mills

Mills HS

7:00pm

Men's Football Varsity vs Mills

Mills HS

Saturday, September 9, 2023

TBD

Cross Country All Levels Invitational Hidden Valley Park, Martinez

TBD

Women's Tennis Tournament

J. Logan HS

7:00am

Women's Volleyball Varsity Tournament

Irvington HS

10:00am

Flag Football All Levels Jamboree

Mt. Eden HS

Thursday, September 7

Parent meeting in Kofman @ 6:00 pm

Classroom visits 6:17 pm to 8:23 pm

