



AHS Parent Newsletter: Friday, Sep. 8

Principal's Message

Last night's Back to School Night was well attended and seemed to go well for most according to the parents and teachers with whom I spoke. I hope that you were able to meet your child's teachers and find out about their classes. I encourage you to communicate with those teachers by email should you still have any questions about the class. If one of your child's teachers could not be at Back to School Night and they haven't communicated with you somehow, then I want to encourage you to reach out to them should you wish to know more about the class, the curriculum, and the teacher's expectations for your child this year.

Senior Sunrise

Many of our seniors engaged in one of their traditions last week by attending the Senior Sunrise. This is a time when seniors all gather to watch the sunrise together just as their last year of high school is commencing. The tradition is that they will again gather at the end of the year to experience the Senior Sunset as they bid farewell to their high school years and embark on the next stage of life as adults. If your child participated in the tradition, I hope they had a memorable and bonding experience.

Progress Reports

Next week is the cut off for progress reports. The following week you will be notified that all grades are posted on AERIES. There is always a bit a confusion around this. Right now, you can view grades in AERIES. However, those grades may not be reflective of where your child is in terms of progress. What you are seeing is a live gradebook. Now if a teacher places an assignment in that gradebook but not a grade because that work has yet to be reviewed and recorded, then the computer reads that assignment as a 0 out of how many points are possible and mathematically calculates a grade including the possible points from that assignment. This makes many grades look different than they actually are. Other teachers have assigned work but did not put it in AERIES yet to avoid those grade miscalculations but then parents see the grade that only represents the work that has been graded and recorded and may think that their child has all their work submitted. Communication with your child about the assignments you see or don't yet see may allow you to have a better idea of their standing in the class as of that day. The progress reports that will be posted the week after next let you know precisely where your child is in the class about halfway through the quarter.

Once Progress Reports are recorded, I will tell you how you can access them in AERIES and for a very brief moment the grades that you can see then and the grades at the progress and grade cutoff dates are the same. I know that is makes it confusing and that many parents would want the AERIES grade books to be updated more often. Updating the gradebooks is a time-consuming

project that can take hours when teachers have 150 or more students. Each assignment has to be graded and then recorded. If a teacher has 150 students and has assigned 7 assignments since the beginning of the school year, then that is 1,050 assignments that need to be graded and recorded. This is just not possible when those same teachers are teaching for 30 hours a week and planning lessons for 5 hours a week and having to supervise students and/or attend meetings or conferences as well as the amount of grading that they do. So, the contract between the teachers and the district has settled on 8 times throughout the school year that teachers are expected to have their gradebooks completed and up to date and those grades recorded for students and families to review as well as for transcripts twice a year.

Senior letters – Counselors

Next week all parents of senior year students shall receive a letter from their student's counselor. This letter will provide information about the student's academic standing in terms of meeting the Alameda Unified School District's graduation requirements. If your student is applying to a 4-year college, there are additional requirements that need to be met. A copy of your student's transcript will be attached to the letter. Please review this letter carefully and contact your student's counselor if you have any questions or concerns.

Drama – Fall Play

All week long, our drama teacher, Ms. Fagundes, has been auditioning students for the fall play. This year's play, The 1940s Musical, will go into rehearsals next week with performances starting the first weekend of November. We had more than 50 students audition with call backs this afternoon for the 15-20 roles that will be cast. The exciting thing about our plays is that it involves not only the on-stage talent but all the sound, lighting, and stage crew made-up of AHS students. We hope that you will be able to attend one of the performances in November.

PSAT

Every year, AHS offers the Practice Student Aptitude Test (PSAT) for students who want to experience an SAT-type test prior to taking the actual test. This year's PSAT will be administered on Saturday, October 14. We acknowledge that many colleges and universities are no longer requiring the SAT, but a few still are and the PSAT is also used for Juniors who are applying to the National Merit Scholarship program. We ordered 250 tests, and they are available on a first come first serve basis. The price for the test is \$30.00. Starting Tuesday, September 19, students may come to Door C 108, just west of the Kofman lobby to submit their form (attached) and payment for the PSAT. We will accept sign-ups September 19 – September 22, from 8:00 am – 8:25 am, and again from 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm for any junior interested in taking the test. On September 21 – September 22 during the times listed above, any sophomore interested in taking the test may come to Door C 108 with the sign-up and check. A check made out to Alameda High School in the exact amount of \$30.00 or exact cash will be accepted along with the completed form attached to this letter or you can come by the main desk and grab a sign-up sheet on Monday

or Tuesday. If using a check, place the student's name and PSAT in the memo line. We are only ordering 250 tests so only the first 250 people to register will be eligible to test on Saturday, October 14.

This year the PSAT is all digital. This means that students will need to bring their Chrome book fully charged for the test administration. We will not have loaner Chrome books and students will not be able to use their personal device since the test requires an app loaded on the device in order to access the test.

I hope that you enjoy your weekend. 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 Ithurnburn
Hornet Pride!

PSAT Sign-Up

1. Student First Name: _____
2. Student Last Name: _____
3. Student Id. #: _____
4. Student grade: Junior Sophomore

Please submit this form along with check or cash in the amount of \$30.00 to the school bank.

Times to submit: 8:00 am – 8:25 am or 3:30 pm – 4:00 pm until tests run out.

Make checks payable to Alameda High School

In the memo line please write the student's name and PSAT



ALAMEDA HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, September 11

Periods 0-6

3:30pm

Women's Tennis All Levels Match

Berkeley HS

Tuesday, September 12

Period 0,1,2,5,smart,6

SMART

University of Puget Sound

College Career Center

3:30pm

Women's Tennis JV vs Head Royce

AHS Tennis Courts

4:30pm

Women's Volleyball Freshman vs Berkeley

Donahue Gym BHS

5:30pm

Women's Volleyball JV vs Berkeley

Donahue Gym BHS

6:30pm

Women's Volleyball Varsity vs Berkeley

Donahue Gym BHS

Wednesday, September 13

Periods 0,1,3,4,6

3:30pm

Women's Golf All Levels vs San Leandro

Corica Golf Park

Thursday, September 14

Periods 0,2,3,4,smart,5

5:30pm

Women's Volleyball JV vs Encinal

AHS New Gym

5:30pm

Women's Flag Football vs Piedmont

Thompson Field

6:45pm

Women's Volleyball Varsity vs Encinal

AHS New Gym

Friday, September 15

Periods 0-6

Lunch

Club Day

Red pole/Circle area

3:30pm

Women's Tennis All Levels vs O'Dowd

Merritt College

3:30pm

Women's Tennis JV vs O'Dowd

AHS Tennis Courts

Club Day, September 15



At Lunch

Upcoming events:

Meaningful Monday Seminar

September 18

8:30 – 9:12am – 2nd Period Classes