



AHS Parent Newsletter: Friday, Feb. 2

Principal's Message

Transition from January to February is always busy activity-wise here at AHS. Soccer, wrestling and basketball will be wrapping up their seasons next week and then we wait to see if we are in playoffs for any of our teams. I hope that all students participating had productive and fulfilling seasons. All of our spring sports start their tryouts and practices next week. Our spring sports parent meeting will be Monday, February 12, at 6:30 pm in Kofman Auditorium. Reminder to complete the Arbiter (formerly called Family ID) process to establish eligibility. It needs to be done for each sport in which students participate. All parent/guardians of spring athletes should plan to attend the February spring sports meeting.

Jazz Band Performance

This past Monday, I had the pleasure to join many AHS parents at Yoshi's Jazz Club to enjoy the AHS Jazz Band performance. The band, along with a quintet drawn from band members, entertained the packed room with a number of jazz pieces. This is our third year performing at Yoshi's and it's always such a fun and entertaining evening. If you haven't gone, I strongly recommend it for next year. The admission money goes to support the Alameda High music program.

Blue Coat Ceremony

Then on Tuesday evening, I attended the Alameda High School Blue Coat induction ceremony. Alameda High, in partnership with Alameda Hospital, has internships at the hospital for 20 – 25 Hornet students who are in their second year of Sports Medicine at AHS. These internships provide students with an interest in pursuing careers in the medical field, the opportunity to rotate through different departments at the hospital. In the past, students were exposed to careers in nursing, physical therapy, hospital administration, pharmacology, orthopedics, etc. At the end of the internship, there is a closing ceremony where students share their experiences and what area of medicine they may want to pursue. It's a fantastic program that really bridges the school to career experience. While in the internship, students wear blue coats to signify their part in the program and the medical profession. The ceremony is when they officially receive their blue coats. I wish them well with their internship this year.

Course Selection

By now, all 9th through 11th graders should have completed the hard copy course selection for next year and turned them in. The counselors and I will now start the process of building next year's schedule. This is an activity that will continue well into the summer. Teacher input, staffing allocations, and student enrollment numbers are still not completed and all three will impact this schedule draft. Encourage your student to speak to their counselor with any questions or concerns about their classes for next year. Finally, should you have any children at an AUSD middle school, the AHS counselors have or will be visiting Bay Farm, Lincoln, and Wood schools in the next few weeks to review the course selection process with the 8th graders and those forms will be due back to their respective middle schools the following week.

It is important for students and parents to know that requesting a course does not guarantee that the student will be enrolled in that class. In some instances, for example, we may have 76 students sign-up for courses where we only have 70 seats available. This means that the computer will decide who is in and who may get an alternative choice. It is just not economically feasible to run an additional section for 6 students. We

usually carry about 35 – 40 AP sections in the schedule so this issue can occur in multiple areas. Often times, we may be able to offer another AP section for juniors and seniors where we have an available seat in a class or two. Those students displaced can ask their counselors to be on the waitlist for the fall in the event that another student decides to drop the class. It's just simple economics of supply and demand. I wish we could offer all students their first choice and then allow them to simply drop if they so wish in the fall but money, staffing, planning, and time just do not allow for that. Please note that all students are guaranteed seats in classes that are required for graduation prior to their leaving AHS. This means that sometimes seniors are given priority over other grade levels, but know, that every student will be enrolled in all required classes prior to their graduating.

In selecting their courses, many students challenge themselves by taking advanced placement courses and we encourage that. In fact, I wish every capable student would challenge themselves by taking at least one AP course during their high school career. Some students want to take many, many AP courses and our experience has shown us that this can be overwhelming and unhealthy for the student. We just want students to achieve a balance in their educational experience so we established an AP policy. The policy is below for your review.

AP classes are the equivalent to college courses. Please remember that when selecting your AP/Honors courses.

- Students may only take a maximum of four AP/Honors classes during their junior and senior year. Sophomores are limited to two if available.
- Once students have registered for the following year's classes, they may drop any AP/Honors class up to **May 17, 2024**, with no reason or approval process necessary. Drop requests must be made in writing to the counselor by submitting a completed Course Change Request form.
- After **May 17, 2024**, all AP/Honors drop requests will be reviewed by the counselor and Administrative representative. **These drops are not guaranteed and the student may need to remain in their originally chosen class. By that date in May, we have determined the number of sections for each course so guaranteed drops may not be possible due to seat availability.**
- Students interested in taking more than four AP/Honors courses at one time must petition in writing (with a parent signature). You can pick up a petition in the Counseling office. Petitions must be turned in to your counselor by **February 15, 2024** of the current school year. Students whose petitions are granted still may drop any of their AP/Honors classes up to the final drop date of **May 17, 2024**.
- Students must have submitted their completed, signed Course Selection Sheet to the Counseling Office. Otherwise, students will not be enrolled in any AP/Honors courses.

Please note that signing up for an AP/Honors class is signing on to a commitment. **DO NOT** sign up for an AP class if you are not sure or be aware of the drop date deadline, as we may not be able to release you from the class due to seat availability in other classes. Also note, seat availability includes the planning for new students not yet enrolled.

Hornet Sting Fundraiser

Alameda High is proud to have an interscholastic sports program that has more than 40 teams in 23 sports offered that involves about 1,200 students each year. This program thrives only through the support of our parent community. Our Sports Boosters spend all year long to raise money that supports our program with

equipment, uniforms, safety measures, transportation, and fees for officials, and tournament costs. **Please save the date of March 23, 2024, 6:30 pm to attend the Hornet Sting.** This is the Booster's annual fundraising event. Join us at the Elks Lodge for a night of fun and fundraising at the Sting. All proceeds benefit the AHS Athletic Boosters. This community event will feature hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar, live and silent auction, games, and dancing. Last year's event sold out, so we've increased the capacity so that we can see more of you! But ticket prices go up February 27--we highly recommend purchasing yours now. Link to tickets: <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/onlineticketpurchase.php?groupId=1361>

Graduation Tickets

I always find it prudent to provide multiple reminders to our senior families about the number of graduation tickets that families get. We are limited because of the capacity of the venue due to the number of ingress and egress locations. Because of this, each graduate receives **5** graduation tickets. That usually leaves enough space in the numbers for the musician, the dignitaries, and staff who are working the venue. We also usually have about 50 extra tickets. This prohibits me from giving a 6th ticket to each graduate but does allow me to give sets of 5-6 tickets to groups on campus such as our Grad Night, Booster organizations, Senior Class Committee, PTSA, etc. to give away or auction off to support their school organization. If you need more than 5 tickets, you can reach out to the above organizations and find out when they will be holding their selection process for their allocation of tickets. You see the Sports Boosters blurb above and I know the Senior Auction is tomorrow night. These are two places where I know tickets are being auctioned off. You can also have your child start checking with other seniors who may not need all their tickets about procuring one from them. Requests to the school for more tickets will fall on very sympathetic ears but the response will always be that each graduate gets only **5** tickets.

Attendance

This morning, I ran an attendance report to ascertain the number of students in danger of not being eligible to attend upcoming activities such as the Junior-Senior Prom. The AHS student handbook says that a student with less than 90% positive attendance can be deemed ineligible to attend such events. We look at all three grade levels because of the juniors/senior options to invite a guest to the event could extend to sophomores. In addition to the students already ineligible, there are 25 or more students who are one to two period absences away from being ineligible. Please note, however, that any students who have less than 90% positive period attendance can be ineligible for the upcoming Junior/Senior Prom. Events like Proms and dances are a privilege and for students who meet the expectations.

Career Technical Education Pathway

Whatever career field your child chooses to pursue in the future, developing problem solving skills and understanding basic coding skills are key. Less than 50% of all high schools in the US offer computer science. *The good news is Alameda High offers Computer Science electives within a Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway.* AHS Computer Science teacher Mrs. Nancy Read coordinated an activity last week for 9th graders to test games that her students built using the coding skills they learned in her course. In the **Computer Science Discoveries - CTE 1** course students will learn to build their own website, make their own computer games, and cooperatively build an App. Students who complete CS Discoveries are encouraged to learn more advanced problem-solving skills in their Junior year by taking **Computer Science Principles - CTE 2** (AP Optional) which fulfills a Physical Science (D) and CTE elective credit. Students who complete these two courses will be well-prepared to take AP Computer Science A in their senior year (a non-CTE elective). With course sign-ups happening now, we encourage

students to consider choosing the computer science pathway by signing up for **Computer Science Discoveries - CTE 1**. For more information, please contact Mrs. Read at nread@alamedaunified.org

Reminder – Cell phone use

A quick reminder to parents, students are not supposed to use their phones during class and risk confiscation. Time and time again, students have shown teachers that the texts they are reading and replying to have come from Mom or Dad. This does not change the confiscation practice but does put your child in an awkward position with their teacher. Please remind your student of the school rule.

Drop-off/Pick-up locations

Please do not drop-off or pick-up your child on Walnut or Oak Streets as you are blocking the driveways to enter the school for staff in the mornings and also blocking driveways of homes on Walnut Street. Drop-offs and pick-ups should occur along Encinal or Central Avenue or a block away from school to avoid traffic back-ups.

AHS Website

A quick reminder to visit the Alameda High School webpage from time to time as there is always new information and highlights pertaining to the school. You can reach the website by clicking on this link: <https://ahs.alamedaunified.org/>. Ms. Gregor always does a great job of keeping it updated. I discover something new every time I go to the site and click on links therein.

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!



Weekly Bulletin

Saturday, February 3

TBD	Basketball: Women's JV vs TBA	AHS New Gym
10:00am	Basketball: Men's F/S vs Encinal	Encinal HS
11:30am	Basketball: Women's JV vs Encinal	Encinal HS
1:00pm	Basketball: Men's JV vs Encinal	Encinal HS
2:30pm	Basketball: Women's Var vs Encinal	Encinal HS
5:00pm	Basketball: Men's Var vs Encinal	Encinal HS

Monday, February 5

4:00pm	Soccer: Women's JV vs Berkeley	Periods 0,1-6 Estuary Park
6:00pm	Soccer: Women's Var vs Berkeley	Estuary Park

Tuesday, February 6

3:00pm	Basketball: Men's F/S vs San Leandro	Periods 0,1,2,5,SMART,6 San Leandro HS
5:00pm	Basketball: Women's JV vs Bishop O'Dowd	BOD Knauss Gym
5:30pm	Basketball: Men's JV vs San Leandro	San Leandro HS
6:30pm	Basketball: Women's Var vs Bishop O'Dowd	BOD Knauss Gym
7:00pm	Basketball: Men's Var vs San Leandro	San Leandro HS

Wednesday, February 7

3:00pm	Soccer: Men's Var vs San Lorenzo	Periods 0,1,3,4,6 San Lorenzo HS
4:00pm	Basketball: Men's F/S vs Berkeley	BHS-Donahue Gym
5:30pm	Basketball: Men's JV vs Berkeley	BHS-Donahue Gym
7:00pm	Basketball: Men's Var vs Berkeley	BHS-Donahue Gym

Thursday, February 8

5:30pm	Basketball: Women's JV vs Castro Valley	Periods 0,2,3,4,SMART,5 AHS New Gym
7:00pm	Basketball: Women's Var vs San Leandro	AHS New Gym

Friday, February 9

4 th period	Schoolwide Assembly	Periods 0,1-6 Kofman Auditorium
4:00pm	Basketball: Men's F/S vs SJND	AHS New Gym
4:30pm	Soccer: Women's JV vs Castro Valley	Castro Valley HS
4:30pm	Soccer: Men's JV vs Hayward	Estuary Park
5:30pm	Basketball: Men's JV vs SJND	AHS New Gym
6:00pm	Basketball: Women's JV vs Kimball	Kimball HS
6:30pm	Soccer: Men's Var vs Hayward	Estuary Park
7:00pm	Basketball: Men's Var vs SJND	AHS New Gym
7:00pm	Soccer: Women's Var vs Castro Valley	Castro Valley HS
7:30pm	Basketball: Women's Var vs Kimball	Kimball HS

Meaningful Monday, February 12

(start with 6th Period Classes)