



AHS Parent Newsletter: Friday, March 8

Principal's Message

Four years ago, on a Friday in March, I sent the following opening paragraph to my weekly newsletter:

This is a strange newsletter for me to write because I probably do not have the information or answers to most of your immediate questions and if I write a typical weekly then it will appear as if I'm avoiding our present situation. The one thing that I can say is that school, for students, is being suspended from Monday, March 16 through Friday, April 3. My advice is to assume that the district will communicate any other important information regarding the district, school, and events in the world so keep an eye out for messages from the superintendent or the district communications officer. With that being said, I will continue this weekly newsletter as if today was a regular Friday the 13th occurring at the end of the week of the Day Light Saving Time change. All information below is subject to change depending on events unfolding. Apologies for the lack of definitive information but know that I will try to update when and where I can.

Who could have known that our students were about to experience a worldwide pandemic not like anything in a hundred years. Their lives are forever changed and they have been called upon to develop a resiliency that they may not have needed prior.

To read that and know what we know now, it is mind boggling to think that we thought we'd be back in school two weeks later. In fact, students did not return to classes, and even then, it was in a fragmented way, for the next 10 months and then not to a more customary schedule for 17 months. They returned cautious, distancing, wearing masks, and with limited extra-curriculars. We saw the onset of the COVID pandemic that brought to the surface acts of racism and hate against our Asian community members. Many of us worked to be vaccinated and participated in ongoing testing, and we all came to learn of the expectations of quarantining when testing positive or even being exposed. We saw the devastating impact that the Delta variant brought to the world and the impact of the fast spreading Omicron. And through all that, students were expected to challenge themselves and progress in their learning while still going through all the challenges of progressing from adolescents to adulthood.

Just writing that previous paragraph was stress inducing, and that is what we all need to remind ourselves about our students. The level of stress and anxiety they are having to endure is real and they are being called upon to develop a resiliency because the world continues to spin and society is moving forward. Young people are resilient and most returned to school with an enthusiasm and positive mindset, but we need to remember to check-in with them often to see if they are in need of any support in order for them to meet the expectations of their school and personal lives. They also need to understand the consequences when they do not meet those expectations and that this is just a part of life. As adults, it has been our job to revisit those expectations and change or alter them where appropriate. This is an ongoing process for all of us.

Alameda All City Music Concert

On behalf of all of the secondary music programs across the island, I want to invite you to the All-Island Music Concert this evening in the Encinal High School gym. The concert is free and starts at 7:00 pm. Doors will open at 6:45 pm. I hope many of you will be able to come to the concert to enjoy the performances.

Counseling Info

Junior letters were sent out by the Counseling Department last week. All families will receive a copy of their student's junior letter. These letters include a copy of your student's transcript for five semesters. Counselors have reviewed students' transcripts and highlighted any areas of concern. All juniors should have completed a minimum of 130 credits to be on schedule to graduate in June 2025. University bound students are urged to make sure that their course selection is appropriate for the colleges to which they are applying. Please note that grades of 'C' or higher on the A-G subject requirements are needed for college admissions. You are urged to please check your student's transcript for accuracy and to call your student's counselor if you have any questions.

Next week, counselors will be presenting to all junior classes information about preparing for senior year and beyond. This presentation will address our school's graduation requirements, college entrance requirements and requirements for other post-secondary choices. The power point for this presentation will be available for review on our school's website. Please go to the 'Students' section and click on 'Counseling Office.' You can then review the presentation under the counseling office grade level curriculum for 11th grade.

Youth Career & Job Fair

- Wednesday, March 27 from 2:30 - 4 PM, Encinal Jr. Sr. High School Gym – 210 Central Ave

AUSD and the City of Alameda are co-sponsoring a *Youth Career and Job Fair* at Encinal Jr. High School's gym. AHS students are encouraged to attend this one-stop summer opportunities fair following dismissal from 2:30 – 4 pm.

WHO WILL BE REPRESENTED AT THE FAIR?

- 30+ employers
- Various City of Alameda departments offering summer internships
- Peralta Colleges
- Trade Organizations
- Educational Opportunities
- Resume Help Desk

We encourage AHS parents to consider carpooling to help as many of our students attend this event. Students can scan the QR code on the attached flier to reserve a seat on the ARPD shuttle. ARPD requires parent permission to transport any student and the permission form can be accessed via the QR code. Students who complete the form with parental permission can access the shuttle at the Veterans' Memorial building at the corner of Walnut and Central Streets.

Students are encouraged to bring copies of their resume. Students can drop off a copy of their resume in the designated box to be eligible for the raffle drawing. Need a resume? Students who need a resume can meet 1:1 with an adult who will provide a template to get them started.

Prom

Prom season is upon us and students are discovering that Prom is a privilege that comes with behavioral and attendance standards and expectations. These standards have existed in the student handbook since before school started and we have even altered the standards to allow for more students to meet the expectations. Just a reminder that any student suspended during the second semester is ineligible to attend the Junior/Senior Prom. In addition, any students failing to meet the positive period attendance expectation of 90% is also ineligible. Finally, students having earned more than 10 tardies are not eligible to attend the Prom. Students' attendance will be reviewed for both the year and the semester and if they can meet one of those benchmarks then they will be eligible to attend. For the Prom, students in

10th - 12th grade can miss no more than 15 (fifteen) period absences for the year, or no more than 5 (five) period absences for the second semester. Finally, students must have served any lunch or Wednesday detentions in order to be eligible to attend the Prom. If you have questions about your child's eligibility, you may email our Dean of Students, Ms. Snowden at jgersolimo@alamedaunified.org.

Fundraiser – Athletic Boosters

Mark your calendar for March 23. That's the night that our Athletic Boosters will be holding their annual fundraiser, *The Sting*, to support all the sports here at Alameda High. This year's Sting will be at the Elk's Lodge from 6:00 – 10:00 pm. I will tell you that without the support of our Athletic Boosters, we would not be able to provide the number of sports that we have nor the quality of and quantity of coaches and services that address athletics. If you have an athlete who has benefited from sports here, then I strongly encourage you to come to the Sting and drag along some adult friends. We could use all the support we can get. All money raised by our Boosters goes right back into the program to serve students.

Link to tickets: <https://www.silentauctionpro.com/onlineticketpurchase.php?groupId=1361>

Get your GRAD NITE ticket before April 19 for a chance to win 2 extra graduation tickets!

CLASS OF 2024! Last year over 2/3rds of the senior class partied into the wee hours at Grad Nite, and this year we're aiming for a full house! [Get your Grad Nite ticket before April 19th](#) to automatically be entered to win 2 extra graduation tickets! Each family will only receive 5 tickets for graduation, so 2 extra tickets is an amazing opportunity, but you have to **buy your Grad Nite ticket before April 19** for a chance to win. Grad Nite has been rebuilt from the ground up, to maximize the fun, and minimize the cost. This is NOT like grad nites of the past. This is not a lock in event, so grads can leave when you want. Those few seniors who didn't come last year really missed out on an amazing time their classmates will never forget. **Tickets are only \$20**, and [can be purchased now!](#) Go to the Alameda High PTSA website, www.alamedapta.org. There'll be a Disco Ball Dance Floor with music they can choose, karaoke, ping pong, billiards, blackjack and poker tables, free custom grad nite t-shirts and tote bags designed by Alameda High students just for Grad Nite, Beach-Ball Volleyball, four-square, a Photobooth, TONS of delicious Free Food and Drinks, an amazing FREE end-of-night Raffle with great Prizes, Chill out lounges with phone charging stations, and tons more games, prizes, and entertainment all night long, ALL FOR ONLY \$20. [Get your \\$20 Grad Night ticket today!](#)

CTE Biotech Class Attends Career Exploration Day @Exelixis

Fifty AHS advanced Biotech students attended a Career Exploration Day at Exelixis – a leading cancer research life science company located on Harbor Bay. Ms. Alissa Hoeft invited her Biotech 2 and Biotech 3 classes to the event. Students toured the labs, participated in a Kahoots info session to learn about Exelixis, and listened to career panelists talk about their professional journeys. Students were also treated to a buffet lunch hosted by the company. The CTE Biotech pathway at AHS is designed to provide students with the skills to enter the biotech field. Ms. Hoeft launched the pathway in 2019 and it has become a very popular elective at AHS. Ms. Hoeft and her students posed for a photo at the end of the event. Thanks to parent/chaperone Ms. Sherry Pedrin-Perez for sharing this photo of the group!



CAASPP Testing

Every year AUSD administers the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP). This statewide test helps us determine whether students have acquired skills in math, English language arts and science for specific grade levels. The CAASPP is important because it provides information about the effectiveness of our public education system. The more information we have about the effectiveness of our public education system the more proactive measures we can take to ensure it's benefiting all families and equipping all students to succeed in reaching the standards that will close opportunity gaps. The California Education Code Section 60615 states that parents/guardians may annually submit a written request to the principal of their student's school if they do not wish to have their student take any or all state tests. If a parent or guardian submits an exemption request after testing has begun, any test(s) completed before the request is submitted will be scored and the results reported to the parent or guardian and included in the pupil's records. AUSD teachers and schools support students to do well on the tests and help them learn test-taking skills that will enable them to be successful throughout their school career and beyond. We encourage parents to contact their child's teacher or principal with any concerns they may have about the test before they request that their student be excluded from taking the test(s).

End of the third quarter

Two more weeks until we reach the end of the third quarter. Teachers will be determining students' grades and those will be posted in AERIES the week after next. This weekend might be a time to make sure that your student has all their work submitted or what they need to do if it is not. Just a reminder that these grades will either be averaged with or are a running grade that will be finalized with the end of the third quarter to determine the grades that will go onto students' transcripts and become part of their permanent record. Please direct any questions first to your child about their grades and then to their teacher.

Well, that's about it for me. I hope that you all have a pleasant and restful weekend. If you have any questions or concerns, you may email me at rithurburn@alamedaunified.org or call the school at (510) 337 – 7022 and I will try to address your needs.

Robert Ithurburn
Hornet Pride!



Weekly Bulletin

Saturday, March 9

TBD	Baseball: Men's JV Tournament	Tracy HS
TBD	Baseball: Men's Varsity Tournament	Tracy HS
8:00am	Track: All Levels Meet	Castro Valley HS
3:00pm	Baseball: Men's F/S Game vs El Cerrito	El Cerrito HS

Monday, March 11

Periods 0,1-6

Tuesday, March 12

Periods 0,1,2,5,SMART,6

3:30pm	Tennis: Men's All Levels vs Piedmont	Piedmont Rec. Courts
4:00pm	Badminton: All Levels vs Castro Valley	Larry Patton Gym
4:00pm	Softball: Women's JV vs Newark Memorial	Newark Memorial HS
4:00pm	Softball: Women's Var vs Newark Memorial	Newark Memorial HS
4:30pm	Volleyball: Men's JV vs Castro Valley	Castro Valley HS
5:30pm	Volleyball: Men's Var vs Castro Valley	Castro Valley HS

Wednesday, March 13

Periods 0,1,3,4,6

3:30pm	Golf: Men's All Levels vs Berkeley	Tilden Park
3:30pm	Track: All Levels Meet	San Lorenzo HS
4:00pm	Baseball: Men's JV vs Freedom	Freedom HS
7:00pm	Baseball: Men's Varsity vs Freedom	College of Alameda Field

Thursday, March 14

Periods 0,2,3,4,SMART,5

3:30pm	Swimming: All Levels vs Bishop O'Dowd	Mills College
3:30pm	Tennis: Men's All Levels vs Bishop O'Dowd	AHS Tennis Courts
4:00pm	Softball: Women's Var vs Clayton Valley	Clayton Valley HS
4:30pm	Volleyball: Men's JV vs Bishop O'Dowd	AHS New Gym
5:30pm	Volleyball Men's Var vs Bishop O'Dowd	AHS New Gym

Friday, March 15

Periods 0,1,2,3,4,5,6

4:00pm	Baseball: Men's F/S vs Tracy	Tracy HS
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ALAMEDA HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA PRESENTS 2024

THE ADDAMS FAMILY
A NEW MUSICAL
SCHOOL EDITION

DIRECTED BY ANNEKA FARGUES
CHOREOGRAPHY BY RACHEL MCCRAY DENTON
MUSIC DIRECTION BY ANNA KOHAM

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY ANDREW LIPPS
BASED ON CHARACTERS CREATED BY CHARLES ADDAMS
BOOK BY MARSHALL BRERMAN
SCREENPLAY BY ANDREW LIPPS
ORCHESTRATIONS BY LARRY HOCHMAN

MARCH 15, 16, 21, 22, 23 @ 7PM
MARCH 17 @ 2PM
FREDERICK L CHACON LITTLE THEATRE

FOR TICKETS GO TO [HTTPS://GOJAN.CO/APP/SCHOOL/CA22847](https://gojan.co/app/school/ca22847)
OR SCAN THE QR CODE PROVIDED