



AHS Parent Newsletter: Friday, Sep. 23

Principal's Message

Happy first Friday of Autumn. Big day here at AHS with the first whole-school assembly in more than 20 years and the Island Bowl football game this evening.

Progress Reports

Progress report grades have now been recorded in the books and report cards are viewable online in AERIES. Please review your child's grades with them and make any arrangements or plans should they need to address their progress in any of their classes. Students needing to improve their progress can seek assistance from their teachers or utilize their SMART periods. I also recommend that parents establish a space in the house (not the student's bedroom where there are too many distractions) and a time daily where the student is expected to sit and attend to their studies. If a student says that they have finished their work, then they can organize their backpack and folders. Should they have done that, then the student could be expected to read. Establishing this same place, same time rule helps those students who have yet to develop the habits needed to be a successful student. These progress grades represent your child's academic progress thus far this year. These grades are not the grades that will be noted on their transcripts. Those would be the semester grades that they will finalize in December just prior to winter break. To view your child's grades: **In Aeries, go to Grades (this should appear in the vertical listing on the left side of the screen), then to Report Card History. The top entry on that screen will be 1st Quarter Progress Report.**

Counselor Information

On September 20, 21 and 22, counselors visited all 12th grade English classes to present information to our seniors. These presentations covered important information in regard to meeting the Alameda Unified School District's graduation requirements and the 4-year colleges A-G requirements. The college application process, requirements for community college applications and 4-year college applications were reviewed as well. If your student was absent during these presentations, please have them check in with their counselor.

If your student is applying to a 4-year college that requires a Secondary School Report, your student needs to complete a Student Profile packet. Please note, UCs and CSUs do **'not'** require a Secondary School Report. This packet was emailed to all Seniors. It's also available on the Alameda High School website under the 'Students' section. Please go to the Counseling Office information section and look for 'Secondary School report' under Quick Links. The deadline to submit this packet is October 1 at 3:45 pm. We realize that this date falls on a Saturday this year so, students are expected to turn in their packets in person on Friday, September 30 or via email by 3:45 pm on Saturday, October 1. No requests will be accepted after the deadline, so please make sure that your student submits the packet to their counselor before the October 1 deadline and remember this does not apply to students who are submitting applications to CSUs and UCs only.

School Site Council

I am happy to report that we have three parents interested in serving on this year's School Site Council. I am hoping to find two more parents/guardians who might be interested in serving. The School Site Council meets monthly to review data and talk about programs at the school. Parents on this council have influenced programs on campus in the past. Some of their influence impacted after school tutorials, increasing AP sections for some

courses, increasing supports for English Language Learners, etc. If you might be interested in learning more or in being a part of the council, you can email me at the email at the end of this letter.

Absences

One of our focuses this year is trying to reduce chronic absenteeism. Any student who has been present less than 90% of the time to any of their classes is considered chronically absent. This means that any student who has missed any class more than 3 times is considered chronically absent at this point in the year. Evidence shows that excessive absences can have a negative impact on student academic performance and can increase a student's anxiety levels due to missing out on experiences and content instruction. A reminder that when your child is absent that you have 48 hours to call the attendance specialists or present a note before the absence turns into an unexcused absence. Please work with us in encouraging students to attend their classes unless they are ill. If their illness may be due to stress or anxiety, then I encourage them to visit the School Based Health Center, their counselor, or any trusted adult on campus to assist them addressing whatever stress is causing them to miss school. For some, habits formed here will follow them into their adult lives and may present them with more issues in the workplace.

In past years, we excused up to four days for students to visit campuses. We have been directed by the district to no longer do that. There are days throughout the year when classes are not in session that students can visit campuses. One of these days is fast approaching on Monday, October 10. This might be a good weekend for a family should they want to head out of the area to go see a campus or two in another part of the state. Other dates for juniors to start thinking about schools since applications usually come due the first of December include the first couple days of Thanksgiving break, November 21 and 22; late in Winter Break, Jan 4 – 6; the latter half of Presidents' Week break of Feb. 22-24; and of course, Spring Break, April 10 – 14, and summer break. All these dates back up to weekends, providing ample time travel and see colleges without having to miss any classes at AHS.

Career Technical Classes

Our career technical education classes prepare students for industries right out of high school. Below is an example of students providing services here in the community.

Need Logo Design Services? Alameda High's Multimedia Students Can Help!

Alameda High School's Advanced Multimedia teacher, Andrea Szeto, is inviting community members seeking to have a logo designed for a business, product, or non-profit program to submit an online form to request virtual student design services. Graphic design teams will be assigned to work with selected clients as part of logo design unit during the month of October. Selected clients must complete a questionnaire prior to the first design team meeting. Clients are required to attend three 15 minute virtual meetings with their student design team. Client meetings will be scheduled during the morning class period. Clients are able to select the day of the week that they prefer using the online form. This is an ideal opportunity for budding graphic designers enrolled in this Career Technical Education pathway to learn the professional skills needed to execute a project for a real client. Clients will retain ownership rights of the final logo. The design services are free, however, clients are invited to make a donation to Alameda High's Multimedia Club to cover the cost of color printing. **Prospective clients are asked to submit a request for design services online using this link:** <https://bit.ly/3f6bsdD>

Application deadline is October 1. Clients will be notified if they have been selected by October 3.

Below are testimonials from satisfied clients and sample logos students created last year!

*The design students were well prepared, listened and responded to our needs, created high quality options and a superb final project. These students were better than professional design firms that we have used for creative pieces - congrats on creating success! **Gail Payne - City of Alameda, Alameda Oakland Estuary Project***

*Thank you for putting together such a beautiful logo for my therapy practice. I ordered business cards, coasters, and even a mug for myself over the holiday weekend, and it's such a delight to know that this image is going to represent me and my practice going forward. I truly appreciate all the effort each of you put into the designs. **MacKenzie Stuart, MA, LMFT***

Author visit

As mentioned at the top of this letter, we are excited to be welcoming Joycelyn Nicole Johnson, author of My Monticello to Alameda High today to talk to students about her life as an author. We did this as a whole school assembly this morning. Ms. Johnson is an up-and-coming writer who recently sold the rights to one of her stories to Netflix. Her book, My Monticello, was the summer read for Alameda High this past summer and has been revisited by a number of the English teachers these past few weeks with students reading her work in class.

Alameda High School has not had a whole-school assembly in about 20 years. I'll tell you, the theater was full and the kids were a fantastic audience. There was a visible time when we could see kids start to get a bit antsy in their seats at about the 40-minute mark, but other than extended, long-drawn out applause after each question/answer, the kids were exceptionally well behaved. Many of the students were enthralled by the author's presentation and for others, not so much. However, all students exhibited respect for the presenter and for their fellow students. One teacher said she'd rate the kids an 8.5 out of 10. That's really impressive for the number of students included in the audience.

Island Bowl

Also, this evening is the Island Bowl. Gates for the game open at 6:00 pm and the game is scheduled to start at 7:00 pm. A reminder that there are no In and Out privileges for the game. If you leave, you pay again to enter. Also, students will not be allowed to bring backpacks into Thompson Field so it's important that they bring a sweater, coat, or sweatshirt in with them should they get cold during the game. We do all of this because the management of the number of people who historically show up at the Island Bowl requires a bit tighter parameter in an effort to maintain safety. I want to try to keep the energy high and the spirit fun yet appropriate for all these Hornets. Gates open at 6:00 pm for the game tonight that starts at 7:00 pm. Come on out and root on the Hornets.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may email me at rithurburn@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



Friday, September 23rd, 2022

4th Period Assembly-Author *Jocelyn Nicole Johnson*
3:30pm Women's Tennis JV vs Head Royce
4:00pm Men's Water Polo JV vs American
5:00pm Men's Water Polo Varsity vs America
6:00pm Women's Water Polo Varsity vs American
7:00pm Women's Water Polo JV vs American
7:00pm Football Varsity vs Encinal-Island Bowl

Periods 0-6

Kofman Auditorium
AHS Tennis Courts
EHS Swim Center
EHS Swim Center
EHS Swim Center
EHS Swim Center
Thompson Field

Saturday, September 24th, 2022

7:00am Women's JV Volleyball Tournament
8:00am Women's Varsity Volleyball Tournament
TBD Cross Country All Levels Invitational

Irvington HS
El Cerrito HS
Ram/Westmoor Invite

Monday, September 26th, 2022

4:00pm Women's Volleyball Freshman vs Piedmont
5:30pm Women's Volleyball JV vs Piedmont
6:45pm Women's Volleyball Varsity vs Piedmont

Periods 0-6

Piedmont-Binks Gym
Piedmont-Binks Gym
Piedmont Binks Gym

Tuesday, September 27th, 2022

Wednesday, September 28th, 2022

3:30pm Women's Tennis All Level vs Piedmont
3:30pm Women's Tennis JV vs Piedmont
4:00pm Women's Volleyball Freshman vs O'Dowd
5:15pm Women's Volleyball JV vs O'Dowd
6:00pm Women's Volleyball Varsity vs O'Dowd

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

Periods 0,1,3,4,6

Piedmont Recreation Courts
Alameda HS Courts
AHS New Gym
AHS New Gym
AHS New Gym

Thursday, September 29th, 2022

1:20pm/smart Washington State University
3:30pm Women's Golf All Level
4:00pm Men's Water Polo JV vs Alhambra
5:00pm Men's Water Polo Varsity vs Alhambra
5:00pm Football JV vs Irvington
6:00pm Women's Water Polo Varsity vs Alhambra
7:00pm Women's Water Polo JV vs Alhambra

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

CCC
Monarch Bay GC
Alhambra HS
Alhambra HS
Tak Fudenna Stadium
Alhambra HS
Alhambra HS

Friday, September 30th, 2022

3:00pm Women's Water Polo JV Tournament

Periods 0-6

Logan High School