



AHS Parent Newsletter: Friday, Mar. 10

Principal's Message

Three years ago on this 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 what our students were about to experience. Their lives are forever changed and they are called upon to develop a resiliency that they may not have needed prior.

To read that and know what we know now, it's 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 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 adolescence 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.

All-City 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 Alameda High School New Gym. The concert will start at 7:00 pm and is free. Doors will open at 6:45 pm. As it is my weekend to assist my 90-year-old mother, I will be unable to attend the concert and will be headed out of the Bay Area soon after school is dismissed to go to her home. However, I hope many of you will be able to come to the concert to enjoy the performances.

Spring Musical

The AHS Drama Department is excited to announce their Spring Musical, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*! Cast and crew have been working so hard to bring you this lively comedy about 6 mid-

pubescents vying for spelling bee glory. Performances are March 16, 17, 18, 24, and 25 at 7:00 pm, and March 26 at 2:00 pm at the AHS Little Theatre. Get your tickets at bit.ly/SpellingBeeAHS, and we'll see you at the "Bee"!

Counselor Presentation – Juniors

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 10th grade.

Prom Season

Prom season is upon us and students are discovering that Prom is a privilege that comes with behavioral and attendance standards. 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 Prom or Senior Ball. In addition, any students failing to meet the newly reduced positive period attendance expectation of 85% is also ineligible. 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 Junior Prom – it is no more than 20 period absences for the year or no more than 7 period absences for the second semester. For seniors, it is no more than 25 period absences for the year or not more than 12 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 or Ball. If you have questions about your child's eligibility, you may email our Dean of Students, Ms. Snowden at jgerosolimo@alamedaunified.org

Cheer Team

If your student is trying out (or even THINKING) of trying out for the **AHS Hornet Cheer team**, then you and your student need to attend the Zoom Meeting on Thursday, March 16 at 6:30 pm. Feel free to email Coach Ann Bloxberg at abloxberg@alamedaunified.org should you have any questions. The Zoom link for the mandatory meeting is below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87209078522?pwd=SGNyT1lQaU1QVGZJSVRGVGRla1YzUT09>

Fundraiser – Athletic Boosters

Mark your calendar for April 22. 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. 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. There is a flyer that will or has gone out on Parent Square and is on the school's website with all the information needed.

SENIORS: The Grad Nite app is live, so download it and get your tickets today!

<https://www.jotform.com/app/230295561507153>

With the Grad Nite app you can buy Grad Nite tickets, learn all about Grad Nite, and more. And, if you get your student a Grad Nite ticket by **Sunday April 16**, you'll automatically be entered in a **drawing to win 2 extra graduation ceremony tickets** for your family. Tickets are only \$20, which includes a free Grad Nite

T-Shirt and Tote Bag custom designed by AHS students, food and drink of all sorts, live entertainment and band performances, a professionally DJ'd dance floor, photo booth, billiard tables, ping pong, blackjack and poker tables, yearbook decorating, four-square and Spikeball tournaments, lots of cool prizes, an end of night raffle with amazing prizes including Six-Flags tickets and a set of brand new Apple AirPods Pro 2, and so much more. Altogether, with food, entertainment and prizes, your grad will be getting a lot more than \$20 worth with their ticket!

[Download the Grad Nite app today, and get your student a ticket by April 16th!](#)

Follow us on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/ahsgradnight23?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Click the link for a preview of the app: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2t06GEgsp>

CAASPP

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).

Reminder – 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 by April 3. 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 rithurnburn@alamedaunified.org or call the school at (510) 337 – 7022 and I will try to address your needs.

Robert Ithurnburn
Hornet Pride!



ALAMEDA HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, March 10, 2023

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

3:30pm	Swimming All Levels vs Mt. Eden	Chabot College
4:30pm	Men's Volleyball JV vs San Leandro	San Leandro
5:30pm	Men's Volleyball Varsity vs San Leandro	San Leandro
7:00pm	All -City Concert (<i>doors open 6:45pm</i>)	AHS New Gym

Monday, March 13, 2023

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

10:00am	Men's Golf All Levels Tournament	TBA
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Tuesday, March 14, 2023

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

3:30pm	Men's Tennis All Levels vs Bishop O'Dowd	AHS Tennis Courts
4:00pm	Badminton All Levels vs Arroyo	Arroyo HS
4:00pm	Men's Baseball JV vs College Park	Lincoln Park (AHS)
4:00pm	Men's Baseball Varsity vs College Park	College Park HS

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Periods 0,1,3,4,6

2:40pm	Collaboration Inquiry Group	Various Locations
3:40pm	Department Meetings	Various Locations
3:30pm	Men's Golf All Levels	Tilden Park
4:00pm	Women's Softball JV vs Albany	AHS Field
4:00pm	Women's Softball Varsity vs Albany	Albany HS
4:30pm	Men's Volleyball JV vs Tennyson	Tennyson HS
5:30pm	Men's Volleyball Varsity vs Tennyson	Tennyson HS

Thursday, March 16, 2023

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

3:30pm	Men's Golf All Levels vs Miramonte	C Corica Golf Course
3:30pm	Men's Tennis All Levels vs San Leandro	Burrell Field
4:00pm	Badminton All Levels vs San Leandro	AHS Patton Gym

Friday, March 17, 2023



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

3:30pm	Men's Golf All Levels vs Acalanes	Rossmoor CC
4:00pm	Women's Softball Varsity vs Encinal	Lower Washington Park
4:30pm	Men's Baseball JV vs St. Joseph Notre Dame	College of Alameda
4:30pm	Women's Softball Varsity vs Encinal	AHS Softball Field
4:30pm	Men's Volleyball JV vs Bishop O' Dowd	AHS New Gym
5:30pm	Men's Volleyball Varsity vs Bishop O' Dowd	AHS New Gym

