



# AHS Parent Newsletter: Friday, Feb. 3

## Principal's Message

February has been busy activity-wise here at AHS. Both soccer 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 our spring sports start their tryouts and practices next week. Our spring sports parent meeting will be Monday, February 13, at 6:30 pm in Kofman Auditorium. Reminder to complete the Family ID 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.

### Course Selection/AP

By now, all 9<sup>th</sup> through 11<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 12, 2023**, 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 12, 2023**, 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 17, 2023**, 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 12, 2023**.
- 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, 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.

### **Sports Boosters – Hornet Sting**

Alameda High is proud to have an interscholastic sports program that has more than 40 teams in 22 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 April 22, 2023, to attend the Hornet Sting.** This is the Booster's annual fundraising event. In the coming weeks, we'll be providing more information about the night and all its activities. Your presence and support are vital to keeping our program running. I especially want to let the parents of our freshmen and sophomores know about this as the lower programs are often the first cuts that are made when there is not enough funding. I am confident that with your support, we can keep our sports program strong. Also, let your friends know about the April 22 event especially if they will have a child entering Alameda High in the next couple of years. Stay tuned for more information about the Hornet Sting.

### **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 Prom. The AHS student handbook says that student with less than 95% positive attendance can be deemed ineligible to attend such events. Due to COVID and other illnesses, the AHS administrative team decided to decrease that expected percentage to 85% positive attendance. Even with the reduction, there are already 30+ juniors, sophomores, and seniors that are ineligible to attend the Junior Prom on Saturday, April 1. We look at all three grade levels because of the juniors' options to invite a guest to the event. In addition to the students already ineligible, there are 25 or more students who are one to two period absences away from being ineligible. We will be sending a warning post to those students. Please note, however, that any student who have less than 85% positive period attendance can be ineligible for the upcoming Junior Prom. The fact that we have already reduced the percentage to 85% means that we will not be flexible about students who have failed to meet this expectation. Events like Proms and dances are a privilege and for students who meet the expectations.

### **Computer Science Electives**

Whatever career field your child chooses to pursue in the future, developing problem solving skills and an understanding basic coding skills are key. Less than 50% of all high schools in the U.S. 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 9<sup>th</sup> graders to test games that her students built using their 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 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](mailto:nread@alamedaunified.org).

### **Blue Coat Ceremony – FACES**

FACES for the Future Hosts Blue Coat Ceremony - Our AHS Sports Medicine CTE pathway is very fortunate to have a long-standing partnership with FACES for the Future. The FACES program is an initiative that was established by the Public Health Institute in Oakland to prepare high school students to pursue careers in the field of medicine. Medical careers can seem out of reach due to the fact that the "faces" of people working in those careers are not representative of the diverse population in our communities. Sports Med 2 students were selected through an application process this fall and the first step for them was to complete the FACES' pre-internship training to prepare them to intern at Alameda Hospital.

Dayan Zakrezewski, FACES coordinator for South Alameda County that includes Alameda High, and Sports Med teacher, Anderson Zhang, held a "Blue Coat" ceremony on January 11 in the AHS Historic Classroom. During the ceremony, this year's cohort of FACES students each receive a blue coat signifying that they passed the 8-week pre-internship training. Anderson Zhang spoke at the ceremony that parents and friends were invited to attend and celebrate the accomplishment of these students. FACES students began their internship rotations this week at Alameda Hospital. Students will complete rotations in the following departments: Emergency, Wound Care, Diagnostic Imaging, Infection Prevention and Control, Materials Management, Critical Care and Administration. Every four weeks, FACES students will move to a new unit to get an understanding of different health care professions. At Alameda Hospital, the staff are just as excited as the students for the FACES program to resume in person. Congratulations to our FACES students who are well on their way to making the health care field become more diverse and inclusive.

### **Reminders – Student cell phone use/Student Drop off and pick up**

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.

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.

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/our-school> . 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 [rithurburn@alamedaunified.org](mailto:rithurburn@alamedaunified.org) or you can call the school at 337 – 7022 and I will try to address them.

Robert Ithurburn  
Hornet Pride!



# ALAMEDA HIGH SCHOOL

## Weekly Bulletin

### Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

TBD	Spring Sports Begin	
4:30pm	Men's Soccer Varsity vs Hayward	Thompson Field

### Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Periods 0,1,2,5, Smart,6

4:30pm	Women's Soccer JV vs Encinal	Thompson Field
6:30pm	Women's Soccer Varsity vs Encinal	Thompson Field

### Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Periods 0,1,3,4,6

2:35pm	Collaboration Inquiry groups	Various Locations
3:45pm	Principal's Cabinet	C208
4:00pm	Men's Basketball F/S vs Castro Valley	AHS New Gym
4:30pm	Men's Soccer JV vs Tennyson	THS-Prince Serrano
5:00pm	Women's Basketball JV vs Castro Valley	Castro Valley HS
5:30pm	Men's Basketball JV vs Castro Valley	AHS New Gym
6:30pm	Women's Basketball Var. vs Castro Valley	Castro Valley HS
6:30pm	Men's Soccer Varsity vs Tennyson	THS-Prince Serrano
7:00pm	Men's Basketball Varsity vs Castro Valley	AHS New Gym

### Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

4:00pm	Women's Soccer JV vs Bishop O'Dowd	BOD Lower Field
6:00pm	Women's Soccer Var. vs Bishop O'Dowd	BOD Lower Field
5:30pm	Men's Basketball JV vs Piedmont	AHS New Gym
6:30pm	Women's Basketball Var. vs Piedmont	PHS Binks Gym
7:00pm	Men's Basketball Varsity vs Piedmont	AHS New Gym

### Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

4:00pm	Women Basketball JV vs San Leandro	San Leandro HS
4:00pm	Men's Basketball F/S vs San Leandro	AHS New Gym
4:30pm	Men's Soccer JV vs San Leandro	Thompson Field
5:30pm	Women's Basketball Var. vs San Leandro	San Leandro HS
5:30pm	Men's Basketball JV vs San Leandro	AHS New Gym
6:30pm	Men's Soccer Varsity vs Encinal	Thompson Field
7:00pm	Men's Basketball Varsity vs San Leandro	San Leandro HS