

Principal's Corner Update - April 23, 2014

Dear Parents,

Communication: In response to feedback about communication from our school to students and parents, we will be sending out weekly emails to keep you apprised of upcoming events and activities, as well as news about our school. Be aware that our calendar view on the website (<http://chs.coronadousd.net/calendar/month/2014/04/>) includes all scheduled events, and they are available in list form as well, under "About" and "Academic Calendar and Bell Schedule" on our homepage.

Budget Updates: Please see the district website (<http://chs.coronadousd.net/budget>) for the latest on budget projections, FAQs, and news. At this point, we are master scheduling with courses and staffing based on the proposed cuts approved by the School Board in February, which means fewer teachers and electives, and higher class sizes, among other cuts. Our plan is to reinstate courses and sections if the bond initiative passes in the election on June 3, 2014. We will continue to keep you posted on the effects of budget cuts on CHS programs as we plan for next year.

Campus Safety and Security: For the sake of consistency and the safety of our students and staff, we will be adhering to a practice of allowing visitors on our campus with advance approval from staff members and notification of the front office. If visitors have not made prior arrangements with a teacher, we will encourage them to contact them for a later appointment. While we wish to continue to welcome former students and other visitors to our campus, we also want to avoid unannounced visits and interruptions to instruction and apply consistent standards to our visitors' policy.

Our ASB students, under the leadership of student Kyler Smith, have forged a **new partnership with the Coronado Police Department** through a series of lunch meetings between students and representatives of the CPD. Topics of discussion have included perceptions of police/perceptions of youth, helmet citations and bicycle safety, and clarification of laws and police responsibilities. The CPD under Chief Jon Froomin has generously funded a School Resource Officer, Officer Sherri Mannello, who will work at all sites in school year 2014-15 to expand relationships between the police and youth of Coronado as well as provide an additional resource for students and staff. Important first work for our school leaders and Officer Mannello will be defining her scope and role and communicating those parameters with students and parents so all shareholders are comfortable with a new friendly police presence on campus. Stay tuned for more details as our relationship evolves.

Testing: During the month of May we will host **AP exams** on our campus (please see calendar in the newsletter). Students are excused from class during their testing time, but must attend regular CHS classes before and after exams, when possible. All exams begin at 8:00 AM or 12:00 PM and students may NOT be late or their exam will be forfeited (makeup tests are only available due to illness). We wish our students the best on these college-level exams and commend them for availing themselves of our school's most challenging curricula.

The California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) will officially begin next year. This year all public schools were required to give a field test of the CAASPP system in order to verify that our on-line testing capability is up to the task. Assistant Principal Steve Abbott, who co-coordinated the testing with counselors Debbie Collins and Afsaneh Safaie, is proud to report on behalf of our team at

CHS and at the district level that all systems are go. Last week our amazing CHS juniors spent up to four hours working diligently, knowing that this year's test would not yield results.

Online adaptive tests will become the norm for standardized testing and students had a low-stress opportunity to experience the framework and explore the style of questions they will likely see throughout their academic careers. CAASPP includes assessments of English Language and Mathematics. Beginning next spring the CAASPP system will be an "adaptive" test, meaning the difficulty will vary based on student performance. Ultimately the results will inform our instruction and provide us comparable data to track student progress towards the skills and knowledge we strive for in literacy and mathematical problem solving.

Senior Events and Graduation: We are looking forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our graduating seniors in a series of events culminating in graduation ceremonies on Thursday, June 5, at 7:30 PM on Niedermeyer Field. Please see a list of senior activities scheduled for May and June on our website.

Assistant Principal Steve Abbott and I have been involved in discussions with the senior class regarding the **"traditions" of senior prank and ditch day.** We are proud of our senior class leaders' willingness to engage in constructive and positive dialogue with us, and feel it is important that we share with parents the themes of our discussions with students regarding these two activities.

For reasons of liability, our concerns about student safety and wellbeing and the condition of our facilities, and our desire to preserve relationships among students and between students and staff forged over four years, we cannot condone an unsupervised and unchaperoned senior prank. We are discussing alternatives with senior class members and appreciate the Class of 2014 for their willingness to consider other options.

We are excited about the opportunities and privileges earned by the senior class and offered by CHS in celebration of their accomplishments, including an all-day Disneyland trip, late start and Senior Breakfast the next day, and time built into the week of graduation for family celebrations. Please be aware that the school district and site cannot authorize a "Senior Ditch Day" and must respond to unexcused absences consistently, with consequences of Saturday School and/or Student Intervention Time, as appropriate. Students and parents should also be aware that any disciplinary infractions near the end of the year, as customary consequences may no longer be available to the administration, may affect participation in senior events and/or graduation ceremonies. Above all else, however, we want to emphasize that our teachers and staff members look forward to spending as much time with our graduating seniors as possible during their last weeks and days on our campus, for celebrations, reflections, and closure. We will miss our graduating seniors!

Summer School: CHS will be offering a limited summer school program for students in need of remediating failing grades, with priority given to graduating seniors and rising 12th graders. Families with students in need of credits will receive a letter in the mail; please stay tuned. Summer school dates will be June 9 through July 18.

Prom: Thank you to the junior class and advisor Breanne Lagomarsino; the parents who helped fundraise, chaperone, and organize; and our amazing student body for a successful and safe junior/senior prom last Saturday night at the New Children's Museum. We were proud of our polite and grateful students who always impress adults in their service at events. We apologize for the parking

challenges some students faced downtown with a competing Padres' game, and will apply our learning to future events.

As our school year (and my first as principal) comes to a close, I wish to thank staff, students, and families for sending my family well wishes and supporting the work of our school during my absence first semester with our new baby. I acknowledge that my leave created challenges for many of us in the Islander Family, and appreciate the cooperation of CHS community members on behalf of student wellbeing and achievement. I am honored to serve in my role as your principal.

Thank you, and Go Islanders!

Jenny Moore