

the Principal's Newsletter



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ALHS API Grows 25 Points!



Jim Cronin
Principal

Wondering if this throw will be the one to dunk him, Mr. Anderson looks on in eager anticipation at the API carnival.

784! That is Alta Loma High School's Academic Performance Index based on student performance on the 2009 STAR test. This represents growth of 25 points and places Alta Loma High School 6th among high schools in San Bernardino County as measured by the API.

The staff is very proud of this achievement. It is a reflection of our teachers' efforts to offer a quality, standards-based curriculum.

Our students deserve much of the credit as well for taking the California Standards Tests seriously and putting forth their best effort. We celebrated academic achievement on our campus Thursday, September 24 by recognizing students who produced gains in their GPA and/or maintained a 3.0 or higher. On Friday, September 25, all students were included in a lunch time celebration of the API.

We will be providing all students with their own data in the next few weeks so they can review their own performance, set goals, and track their progress.

Teachers and administration will work with the students to help them understand their data. This is valuable information for students

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about their education, and it is essential that we share it with our students and help them understand it.

Our goal at Alta Loma High School is to sustain academic growth. We will continue to work to improve our instructional program until all students pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) and achieve proficiency in every subject.

We will also continue to inform students and their parents about post-secondary opportunities for our students with the goal to increase the number of our graduates who meet the University of California and California State A-G eligibility requirements. On Sept. 26, we held a College-bound workshop on campus to provide parents and students with information regarding college. We will continue to offer these kinds of outreach programs to guide our students and parents.

We are always available to discuss standardized testing, college eligibility and preparation, and any other school concerns you may have. Please contact me, one of our assistant principals, or a guidance counselor if you have any questions.

ALHS Hosts First Senior Grad Fair

November 18th: 2:45 – 7 PM

Here parents and students will be able to purchase caps and gowns, graduation announcements, yearbooks, senior ads, tickets for senior activities, senior clothing and much more.

This event will provide parents and students a one stop shop for all senior items and activities.

Please mark your calendar and be sure to attend this important event.

Planning Ahead

- November 3-4 – CAHSEE testing for seniors
- November 3 @ 3 PM - School site council
- November 11 - Veteran's Day (no school)
- November 16 – Senior Assembly and panoramic picture
- November 18 – Senior Grad Fair
- November 23-27 – Thanksgiving Break



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<http://www.cjuhsd.k12.ca.us>



A carnival wouldn't be complete without some fun games to go with it. The traditional "pie eating contest" is certainly no exception. Other activities included cotton candy, a dunk tank, and more.



To reward students for their amazing API growth, Renaissance held a carnival on campus with free hot dogs. Their assembly line technique fed the crowds while staff members cooked to keep them coming.

Greetings from the Dean

Phil Schuler
Dean

I would like to thank all of our teachers, parents, and students for a great first quarter of school.

At this time, I would like to remind everyone who drives their student to school to follow all of our posted traffic laws. This includes no left turns out of the parking lot during the posted times, and no illegal u-turns in front of the school. Making these maneuvers creates a hazard for all kids and families coming and going to school.

Technology has changed the nature of the problems seen in the Dean's Office. "Cyberbullying", is becoming more and more prevalent amongst school-age children.

Please monitor student Internet (MySpace, Facebook, IM, emails, etc), and cell phones (texting) for any possible cases of harassment. If it is found, please save the content and report it to your provider and school officials (if it is school related).

It is the Dean's Office goal to make ALHS a safe and orderly school where students can focus on learning.

Report Cards Explained

Colby Helper
Instruction

In an effort to assist the stakeholders of the Alta Loma community monitor the academic progress of their children, the high school offers grade reporting at various times during the school year.

Progress Reports:

Progress reports are prepared 4 times a year; at 5 weeks and 12 weeks of the first and second semester. Many teachers choose to give grades at this time, but it is not required.

The progress report is a time for parents to be notified if their student is struggling or in danger of failing. Teachers are required to make that notification on this report. Progress reports DO NOT determine eligibility for extra curricular activities.

**5 weeks progress reports will be hand delivered and the 12 week progress reports will be mailed.*

Quarter Grades:

The quarter grade is a mid-

semester academic report. These grades are not permanent, except for the ELD classes which are quarter classes.

Teachers are required to report a grade and make comments for improvement if a student is struggling in their class.

Quarter grades ARE used to determine eligibility for extra curricular activities.

**Quarter grades will be hand delivered by the students.*

Semester Report Card:

Permanent grades are assigned at the end of each semester. These grades are permanent and are recorded on the student's transcript.

Every student will have a final exam in each class which necessitates student attendance. Semester grades ARE used to determine eligibility for extra curricular activities.

**First semester report cards will be hand delivered by the student and second semester report cards will be mailed.*

Academic Success - What Parents Can Do at Home

Don Jaramillo

Guidance

It is our hope that all students are achieving the best grades they can possibly earn. However, some students may be under performing. We want these students to understand that it is often not too late to improve before the end of the first semester when final grades are issued. We also want to assist parents in anyway possible to help them improve their child's study habits at school and at home.

There are steps parents can take to foster academic success in the home. Brewster and Fager identified six things parents can do to help their students succeed in school. Their research was published by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.

To help students succeed, Brewster and Fager found that parents can:

- "Create a place at home that is conducive to studying. Good study environments are well-lit and quiet. Although every child's learning style is different, most educators agree that

students do best when the television is off and the student is free from distractions."

- "Set aside a specific time for homework each day. This might involve limiting television-watching or phone calls until homework is finished. Parents should be careful, though, not to pit homework against activities students enjoy, or to create situations in which students rush through their work in order to get back to other activities. It has been noted that family routines -- which include set homework times -- have been linked to higher student achievement."
- "Make sure students have all the supplies they need. Parents should check in with students ahead of time about the kinds of projects they will be doing: It might be tough to find a calculator or a report cover at 9:00 the night before an assignment is due."
- "Be available if students have questions. Parents can support their children by looking over homework and giving suggestions, but should not do the homework for them."
- "Make an effort to communicate regularly with teachers. If necessary, parents should ask

teachers to clarify their expectations. It is also a good idea to find out ahead of time what kinds of resources -- such as tutors or services for second language students -- are available to students if they need help."

- "Avoid linking rewards or punishment to school performance. While it is important for parents to recognize students' achievements, they should avoid external motivators for performance. Instead, parents should emphasize the value of learning and show they appreciate their child's hard work."

Source:

Brewster, Cori; Fager, Jennifer. "Increasing Student Engagement and Motivation: From Time-on-Task to Homework." Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory. Oct. 2000. <http://www.nwrel.org/request/oct00/textonly.html#involve>

For more information, visit the website above. If you have any questions or need assistance, contact your student's counselor or a school administrator. We are here to help.

ALHS PTSA Corner

Linda Dellar

PTSA President

The Alta Loma PTSA would like to extend a warm welcome to all Teachers, Support Staff, Parents and Students for the 2009/2010 school year. Alta Loma began the school year with many changes, but the one thing that never changes is the dedication and commitment of the Alta Loma PTSA to all staff and students.

The PTSA is once again participating in the 2009-2010 Reflections Program "Beauty Is..." The artistic categories are Photography, Literature, Music Composition, Visual Arts, Dance Choreography, and Film/Video Production. This is a great way to display your talent. Entries are due by NOVEMBER 10TH.

If you are interested in this program, please check the web-site, capata.org under Reflections, or contact the Vice Principal Mr. Helper for more information.

Just a reminder our PTSA meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month in the Activities Office Conference Room at 7pm. This is a great way of being informed about what is going on within the school, and the programs and activities we sponsor which benefit all students at Alta Loma High School. We look forward to seeing you, the more the merrier!

If you have any questions or we can be of any assistance, please contact myself, Linda Dellar, PTSA President at (909) 685-3910, or Rosemary Batista, Secretary at (909) 980-5483.



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