

Principal Messages

3/28/08

1) Regular School on Friday, March 28th

Other Anchorage Schools are having a teacher in-service this Friday, March 28th. Highland Tech will be in session with a regular B day schedule. Doors open at 7:30 and close at 4:00 PM.

2) SBA and HSGQE Testing Times

Testing Dates: April 1-4 (April 4th Science only for 8th/10th graders; otherwise normal days)

Breakfast Times: 8:00 – 8:50 AM (hosted by student leadership)

Testing Times: 9:00 – 12:10

URGENT: All students must participate (except high school students who have passed the HSQGE; they will be in a Study Hall during the mornings)

Afternoon classes: Tuesday, April 1, Period 4

Wednesday, April 2, Period 5

Thursday, April 3, Advisory

School dismissed at 2:30 PM each on April 1-3rd

More information below on Testing Taking tips and preparation for students and families*

3) HTH Summer School (May 28 – June 6)

If you are making plans for summer, you can count on HTH's Summer School this year. We'll be offering a variety of core courses over the 8 days. Classes will cost approximately \$75 per student per class. One class in the morning and one class in the afternoon. Minimum class size will be 10 students, maximum will be 20. Check with your Advisory teacher if you think you will want Summer School. We'll send out more details and application forms in April.

4) Student Led Conferences on April 17th from 1:00 - 2:00 pm & 4:00 -7:00 pm

Friday, April 18th is a half-day.

5) Bear Tooth Theater Field Trip, April 11th

Back by popular demand, students who have participated in ALL 4 days of testing (SBA/HSQGE), classes, and/or attended study halls on April 1-4th will be eligible for a school-wide field trip to the Bear Tooth Theater. The movie will be National Treasure and include a pizza buffet. We'll be at the theater from 9:30 – 12:30. We need more chaperones, so please contact school.

Upcoming Events

April 1-4th Statewide Testing (mornings)

April 8th Make up Testing Day

April 9 Academic Policy Committee Meeting (6 PM)

April 11 Exploration Friday

(Bear Tooth Theater Field Trip; 9:00- 12:00) (Afternoons for Career/PSS Individual Learning Plans)

April 15-20 Legos World Championship in Atlanta, Georgia!

April 17th Student Led Conferences (school dismissed at 1:00 PM)
1:00 - 2:00 pm & 4:00 -7:00 pm

April 18th school dismissed at 1:00 pm

April 18 Strategy Game Club Lock in

April 21 Teacher Inservice (no school for students)

April 23 Stakeholder Meeting

April 26 Robotics/Legos demonstration & awards

May 1 Deadline for Senior Work (for those intending to walk in Graduation ceremony)

May 13 Senior Graduation Ceremony

May 22 School Picnic and Last Day of School

*Test Taking Information:

Anchorage School District students are about to enter testing season. Whether it's the Standards Based Assessment or the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam, the majority of the district's students will be asked to perform their best for mandated tests starting April 1. Parents can help their children by doing what they do best – making sure they get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast, but there are other suggestions as well.

*Young children, and even teenagers, might feel better about the tests if they see them as games. Play a game with your child before testing week and affirm their power to recognize the right moves, the right piece to the puzzle or the right answer to the question.

*Help reduce any anxiety your child might feel about testing. Ask the teacher for practice tests to go over at home or materials that can be read to prepare.

*Most importantly, discuss anxiety and stress with your child and ask them how they would get rid of it. Help them with techniques such as visualization of a successful outcome and controlled breathing to keep them calm.

*Offer your child a treat, like renting a favorite film or going to the gym, after the testing is over. No matter how the student feels about his or her performance, they are rewarded for their effort.

*Finally, discuss any anxiety your child might have about tests with his or her teacher. Extreme anxiety can affect the student's performance, and his teacher needs to be aware of your discussions with your child.