



SANTA ROSA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. James Goddard
Principal

Mr. Brad Coscarelli
Vice Principal

Ms. Monica Baldenegro
Assistant Principal

Mr. Alan Nealley
Assistant Principal

The Principal's Message

8-26-09

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The turn out of parents registering to receive this newsletter has been tremendous; more than five hundred new e-mail addresses have been logged into the system. The delay in sending this letter was due to time required to hand input all parent information. My Principal's Message should have gone out this past Friday, as I send these out on the first and third Friday of each month.

We are looking into upgrading our web page so parents, students, and community members will be able to register to receive copies of this publication. The present system requires inputting e-mail addresses by hand, and among typographical mistakes, and the inability to read some handwriting, some people will unfortunately be left out. I look forward to one day soon having the ability to reach a much larger population of Santa Rosa High School supporters.

Recently in the news, the H1N1 virus, also known as Swine flu made headlines across our nation. I have attached a letter from Superintendent Liddell which has some important guideline updates. Superintendent Liddell's letter is also posted on our web page at <http://www.santarosahighschool.net>. The articles in the Press Democrat and in USA Today allude to potential widespread cases of the H1N1 virus across our country. Although Sonoma County has seen a low incident rate, precautions across our school district have been put into place. Students and adults are encouraged to wash hands regularly, use hand sanitizer, and to sneeze or cough into their elbow and not their hands. Most classrooms have bottles of hand sanitizer, and those without hand sanitizer will soon be equipped, as we have ordered additional supplies. Students or adults that show up to school with a fever and any one of a mix of mild symptoms such as a headache, sore throat, cough or muscle aches probably will be asked to go home for a few days. Schools will remain open or closed per health department guidelines. Closing schools is a rare occurrence and is not necessarily recommended. Since last spring, the Swine flu has proven less dangerous than initially feared but is still a concern, primarily because no vaccine is on the market. It may not be until October when the vaccine will be available, but when it is available, it will be distributed through local physicians, health departments and possibly through school nurses. As news develops and is forwarded to me, I will relay this to you immediately.

Last week we kicked off our school year with a back-to-school rally on Friday, followed by our annual Toga dance. The dance was a great success, with more than three hundred students showing up for an evening of fun. Thank you to all the volunteer teachers and parents who helped put this together. Students do not always thank our volunteers, but I know they appreciate the time and energy these

people commit to helping run their event. Without volunteers, activities such as this dance could not take place. The student rally and dance was organized and sponsored by our student government class. This organization is active all year and is led by one of our teachers, Mr. Rob Camm. Mr. Camm and his student government class always create fantastic events.

Schedule changes are under way and should be finalized late this week or early next week. The first two to three weeks of school is always an anxious time for some students and parents as we adjust classes to create class size equity. As I stated in my last Principal's Message, Santa Rosa High School is the most popular school for intradistrict (within SRCS system) and interdistrict (outside SRCS system) student transfer requests. This means that predicting the movement of students either entering or leaving Santa Rosa High School is very difficult. Our counseling department works diligently to accommodate all students, if possible. They are seeing students daily to adjust and refine schedules. Please be patient as we work to balance student and teacher class schedules.

Reminder that Back-To-School night is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in our auditorium. After a short presentation, parents will begin to follow their child's class schedule and have an opportunity to meet their child's teachers. The evening schedule of meeting teachers in their classrooms will be from 7:35 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Our sports season is underway and I hope to see you at some of our events. Panther athletics continues to grow and prosper. I encourage all students and parents to become involved in either sports or extracurricular activities. The more a student is involved with their school, and supported by parents, statistically they do better, not only while in school but in life after graduation.

Today, Santa Rosa High School administration met with all classes (freshmen through seniors) in our auditorium, welcoming them back to school. We handed out information about safe driving practices to our sophomores, juniors and seniors, our newly Board approved attendance policy, and a student planner. Freshmen did not receive the safe driving practices pamphlet, as they typically do not begin driving until next year. We reviewed school rules and emphasized the importance of keeping a daily planner and that using it will improve their chances of success.

The new attendance policy I refer to in the previous paragraph is a revision to Administrative Regulation 5113, which took place on August 12, 2009. The policy reads:

When a student has had 20 unexcused hours of absence for a 5-unit course in one semester, the student shall not receive any credit for that course and will receive a failing grade. A total loss of credit warning letter will be sent to parents after the 6th, 10th, and 16th hour of unexcused absence.

The above statement is a change in our variable credit policy where students, once they have acquired 11 unexcused absences, lose one of the five (5) credits associated with the class. Additional unexcused absences could result in further loss of credit. The mitigating factor leading to the revision of Administrative Regulation 5113 was the cost associated with allowing students to make up the loss of a single credit.

If you have not noticed, we have a new sign in our front lawn, courtesy of Santa Rosa High School Foundation. It is gorgeous! There will be a dedication ceremony on September 15th, at 4:00 p.m. on our front lawn. I hope you will be able to attend!

Finally, the long awaited Home Access Center, barring any unforeseen difficulties, should go live on September 1st, 2009. The Home Access Center (HAC) will allow parents and students to see

information pertaining to each student's classroom. Everything from homework assignments and grades, to attendance and discipline will be available from the convenience of any computer with Internet access. You will have a password to log-on to see only your child's account. This information should have been mailed to you with instructions on how to log-on to the system. If you have yet to receive this information, please let me know and I will forward you information about how to obtain access.

As I stated in my last Principal's Message, please let us know how we are doing in serving your child's needs. It is not enough for me to assume everything is alright if I do not hear from you, I would prefer to hear directly from you about how we are doing. If you have good things to share about a service you received from a teacher, a counselor, an office worker or an administrator, I would like to hear your thoughts. I do share these with our staff and they always appreciate your remarks. We have some of the best teachers in California and they take great pride in their profession.

I would also like to hear about concerns that either I might be able to help resolve or one of my assistant principals might be able to help. Remember that our first Principal's Coffee Hour is scheduled for September 16 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. See you then!

Thank you,

James Goddard
SRHS Principal

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