



Valley Vista High School  
9600 Dolphin Street  
Fountain Valley, CA 92708  
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Principal, Kerry Clitheroe

February 19, 2010

Dear Parent / Guardian:

As we begin the Spring semester, it's a great time to communicate with our parents about upcoming events, review the school calendar and address school policies.

### **CAHSEE**

Our sophomores, Class of 2012, will be taking the CAHSEE (California High School Exit Exam) for the first time. Students must earn 220 required credits in all academic and elective areas and pass the CAHSEE in order to receive a high school diploma. Students are encouraged to take the CAHSEE the first time it is offered because over 80% of the Huntington Beach Union High School students pass it on the first attempt. The CAHSEE has two sections: The English/Language Arts test will be given on Tuesday, March 16, and the Mathematics test on Wednesday, March 17. In addition, all juniors and seniors who missed the test or didn't pass one or both tests will have an opportunity to test on March 16 and/or March 17. Graduating seniors in Special Education are exempt this year from the CAHSEE graduation requirement.

### **GRADES / CREDITS / HOMEWORK**

Report cards were mailed home on February 12, 2010. If you did not receive your child's report card, please contact Mrs. Matua at extension 4426 so she can verify your mailing address. At the end of the Fall semester the following should have been earned:

<i>Sophomore</i>	<i>Class of 2012</i>	<i>90 credits</i>
<i>Junior</i>	<i>Class of 2011</i>	<i>145 credits</i>
<i>Senior</i>	<i>Class of 2010</i>	<i>195 credits</i>

A student who needs to complete deficient credits should talk to his/her teachers about assignments to complete at home to earn make-up credits. Our homework policy allows our students to make up credits from previous semesters. Students continue to do their current class assignments and complete make-up credits at home. Students who are interested in returning to their home school must earn the required number of credits to be eligible to apply. Also, attendance must be 90% or better with no truancies and no behavior problems.

If you have any questions or concerns about Fall semester grades or make-up credits, please contact Mrs. Lopez, Academic Counselor, at extension 4470, or Mrs. Longshore, Guidance Specialist/Registrar, at extension 4431.

### **YEARBOOK / STUDENT PICTURES**

Our yearbook student committee and staff advisors are working very diligently to complete pages and make the deadline for our first yearbook. Student pictures will be taken on February 25, 2010, at school. Please see the Lifetouch School Portraits flyer (purple) for more information about packages and prices. Students are not obligated to purchase pictures in order to appear in the Yearbook.

## **DRESS CODE**

Please check your student's attire prior to school. Short shorts and skirts, cut up clothes, hats, pajamas, skimpy tops and articles of clothing with offensive meanings are some examples of dress code violations. Parents will be notified and will need to bring suitable clothes to school for their child to wear for the remainder of the school day.

## **PASSING PERIOD**

At Valley Vista High School we have a 2-minute passing period to walk from one class to the next. Many students try to make the passing period a 5- and 10- minute break. This costs valuable instructional time and staff time trying to get students to go to their next class. We are making an effort to move students along and I will contact you if your child is one of these habitual tardy students.

## **PROM**

The 2010 Prom will be on Friday, June 4, 2010, at the Irvine Marriott Hotel. This year's theme is "A Night in Paradise." Tickets are \$50.00 each. Several continuation high schools in Orange County participate in this student activity. More information will be available in late March. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

## **ATTENDANCE / SARB**

### **Leaving Campus**

- Students remain on campus upon arrival until dismissed from school.
- Written or telephone permission from the parent/guardian is required for a student to leave before the end of the day--please schedule appointments after the school day. Student checks out at the office.
- Students who leave campus without permission and return to campus are subject to search.

### **Absences**

- Parent/guardian need to call 714. 964.7766 x4426, the attendance desk, to report an absence.
- Verification of absences requires a signed note or telephone call from the parent / guardian.
- Unverified absence is considered truancy.
- Habitual truanancies begin the implementation of SARB process.

### **Tardy Policy**

- Students need to attend all of their classes on time.
- Habitual tardies will result in a conference with the principal.

### **Truant**

- Habitual truanancies are tracked at the home school and carry-over and continue to be tracked at VVHS.
- Habitual truants are referred to SARB.

### **Student Attendance Review Board (SARB)**

- Student and parent / guardian will be notified of continued, persistent attendance problems, and if attendance issues are not resolved students will be referred to SARB.
- SARB begins with documented letters of the period truanancies, if student continues to be truant then students/parents are scheduled to attend a D.A. meeting. Lastly, if truanancies persist a formal hearing takes place at the local police department resulting in a signed contract that the student and parent must follow. Violation of the contract may lead to a referral to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

## **SENIOR INFORMATION**

Class of 2010...Look for the Senior Bulletin in mid-March for all of the upcoming senior events, activities and deadlines. Don't forget that senior scholarship applications are due now!

Thank you for your continued support! If you have any questions, please contact me on extension 4401.

Kerry Clitheroe  
Principal





