



PRINCIPAL'S 411

Santa Maria High School

{1-22-21}

Important Items and Reminders:

- There are a number of PD opportunities being made available by SBCEO, (**see attachments to this email**). If interested, please work through your department chair and/or your respective administrator.
- Rotary is hosting their 4 Way Test Essay Contest 2021. (**also see attached to this email**) There are cash prizes and the deadline is Feb. 19th if you would like to encourage your class or any individual students to sign up.
- Language Line is now available, please remember is as a resource when needing to overcome a language barrier between you and a parent.
- **Construction is happening!!** Demolition is in full swing. If you haven't been on campus for a while take a look at the **photo included with this email**. As interesting and exciting as it is, please adhere to the fencing and signage restricting our access to the construction area. It is for our own safety. Come check it out,,, but from a distance.

Athletics:

All athletic teams have resumed practices under the same safety protocols as those followed before break. There is one new safety precaution requiring coaches and athletes must keep their mask on at all times. Previously, athletes could remove their masks while heavy exertion, now, they are to keep their masks on throughout.

Kudos:

Kudos this week should go to the Grounds and Maintenance team district-wide that have put in countless hours with plans, approvals, contracts, board meetings all to bring the beginning of a new era to Santa Maria High School. Although it is a shame to see some of the older, traditional buildings go, it is truly exciting to see the construction project finally underway. When finished I have no doubt the SMHS facility will be a source of pride for our students, parents and community..... it will be pretty cool for all of us too! Thanks to Gary Wuitschick, Ken Gropetti, Yolanda Ortiz, Reese Thompson, Superintendent Garcia, and a host of others for getting us to this point with this exciting project.

Message from Administration:

As we finish the second week of classes, I'd like to stress the importance of getting our students off to a good start. (I know,,, Captain Obvious) A phenomenon that schools nationwide ran into last fall was that their students started off so badly that by the time they got to the first progress report, students were already past the point of no return... at least in their eyes. This made grade recovery even more challenging for teachers, and students.

This spring let's make sure we have the students on board from the "get go". Right now is the time to make a push.

Please be sure that we are adhering to the grading and homework agreements sent out from John Davis' office last semester. There should be more clarification coming from his office this coming week. (Monday is assignment alignment, other two days are time to do all student work, late work accepted, etc.)

I would also encourage making the phone calls home if you have a student not attending regularly or not performing in class. We now have Language Line available so that families are more accessible to us than ever before.

And lastly, utilize every minute available to us while the students are in class. If you have a student failing your class, keep them with you working on their grades until the closing bell. And if that isn't enough, direct them to join you for

office hours. I've seen these practices in place with some of our teachers and they are very effective. Don't make it easy for our students to let themselves down.

This semester will be better as we learned a lot from last fall. We've come a long way, and so have our students and parents. As we go into the spring semester it is still important that we use the strategies that were successful in the fall so that we have the best possible results this semester. Keep up the good work and have a great weekend.