



PRINCIPAL'S 411

Santa Maria High School

{2-27-21}

Important Items and Reminders:

- **Teachers of seniors**, please encourage seniors to complete their **FAFSA** application (priority deadline is March 2nd). The competition among gov/econ teachers continues with a free cap and gown for students of the winning class, AND a traveling trophy, and a \$100 gift certificate for the winning gov/econ teacher.
- Don't forget Language Line, please remember this as a resource when needing to overcome a language barrier between you and a parent.
- As Wellness Week concludes please be reminded that grades for progress reports are due at 3:00pm on Monday, March 1st.

Athletics:

- Athletics continue to move forward towards having nearly all sports return to interscholastic competitions. We continue to monitor the dropping COVID19 numbers in our county. The numbers are getting very close to the mark that will free up more sports for competitions. Right now, all but a few indoor sports are either already participating in competitions or are scheduling anticipated events. This is a relief to us all, but especially good for our students-athletes. It is a much-needed break for them in what has otherwise been a very tough year. I am optimistic that we will be able to finish this year with some positive experiences for our students as we continue to trend back towards normalcy. (hopefully)

Kudos:

I'd like to make this week's kudos an opportunity to let the staff get more acquainted with one of our newer, yet already valued member of the SMHS team. Teresa Luna Rojas joined us this winter as our new community liaison. Though new to the job, Teresa is already getting things done for our students and our community. Attached is a photo of Friday's food distribution organized by Teresa, Betty, Catholic Charities, and many more. Again, great job to all who made this possible, and welcome to the team Teresa!

Message from Administration:

As of Thursday night's, special board meeting there will be some changes to our grading policies according to resolution 15-2020-2021. Perhaps the most impactful part of this resolution states that a student's second semester grade can "validate" a student's first semester grade, if that second semester grade is an improvement over the first. I believe this action is the school board's attempt to give students every opportunity to adjust academically to the chaotic change we have all experienced this year. I know the idea of changing grades is a sensitive subject with many, understandable so, but I am confident that this resolution is temporary, and written only with the intent to provide students a way out of a jam they may have gotten themselves into first semester. Districts across the nation are grappling with similar scenarios and have taken much more drastic actions than this. We are not alone in this dilemma by any means.

As we have done with all the other "unprecedented" changes made during these past 12 months, we will continue to work through this together. I have no doubt that we will figure it all out. There is a lot of discussion still to take place on this topic and my advice is to be patient with the process. I do not see this resolution needing to interfere with this period's progress grades in any way. There will be further opportunities to discuss the grading issues in coming weeks. In the meantime, teachers hang in there finishing grades, and everyone have a great weekend.

this concept in response to the nation-wide downturn in students' grades.