

# Welcome to Sunset High School!

Information for  
Incoming 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents

February , 2014

**SUNSET HIGH SCHOOL**  
HOME OF THE APOLLOS



# Sunset Counselors

- Mrs. Jennifer Hay-Roe      A-Cor
- Mrs. Hope Pearson      Cos-Hob
- Mrs. Emily O'Quinn      Hoc-Men
- Mrs. Allison Prosser      Meo-San
- Mr. David Frankle      Sao-Z
- Alix Loeber      ELL/STEPP

# Our Population



- About 2000 Students
- A diverse student body – Over 50 languages spoken
- Numerous international students
- 17% TAG
- 25% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 14% SPED
- 4% ELL

# Post High School Choices of our Students

- For the graduation class of 2013:
  - 58% attended a 4 year college directly after graduation
  - 12% attended a 2 year college
- The trend over the last 6 years has been:
  - 60-70% attended a 4-year college
  - 15- 25% attended a 2-year college

# Sunset Staff at a Glance...

- About 85 full time teachers
- 4 Administrators
- Counseling Team
  - 5 Counselors
  - 1 School Psychologist
  - 1 secretary
  - 1 registrar
- THANK GOODNESS FOR VOLUNTEERS



# Credits

- Each year-long class completed and passed = 1 credit
- Each semester class completed and passed = .5 credit
- Total for each year = 7 credits (sometimes more...)
- 7 credits x 4 years = 28 credits (lots of room for electives or to make up for mistakes).



# Graduation Requirements

## CREDITS

- English/Language Arts: **4**
- Math: **3** (Algebra I + 2 years beyond)
- Science: **3** (2 lab sciences)
- Social Sciences: **3**
- PE: **1**
- Health: **1**
- Applied Arts: **3**
- Electives: **5.5**
- Career Ed: **.5** (done in Advisory class)
  
- Total Credits: 24**

## ESSENTIAL SKILLS

- State testing (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades)
  - Reading (236 meets) – 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Math (236 meets) – 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Writing (40 meets) – 11<sup>th</sup>
- Curriculum in classes is aligned with meeting Essential Skills.
- Writing is tested once in the Spring of 11<sup>th</sup> grade (will do a portfolio in 12<sup>th</sup> if not meeting)
- Senior Project



# College and Career Readiness

- Expectation: Every student leaves with a skill set to be prepared for a 4-year college or university.
- Explore/Plan/ACT tests are administered free in April
- Post High School Planning Workshops
- Post High School Planning Nights
- College and Career Center
  - ASPIRE Mentor program; College Rep Visits, Vocational opportunities, Job Shadows, Internships
- Career Related Learning Experiences



# Basic 4-year College Admission Requirements

- C's and above in all classes.
- At least a 2.75 Cumulative G.P.A. at the time of application (end of Junior year!). This is for the least competitive colleges.
- At least a 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. is preferred and/or necessary for colleges like PSU and OSU.
- SAT and/or ACT exam scores.
- Private and selective colleges have much higher requirements. (See colleges' websites)

# Selective College Admissions

This group of colleges are generally private or more selective public universities. They have a competitive and more involved admissions process.

- Higher than average G.P.A. (3.4 and above)
- Rigorous course selection
- 4 years of most core subjects (including math, science and world language)
- 1 year of the same fine arts class
- Unique and/or significant volunteer activities, contributions to community or independent study projects
- Portfolios, auditions, interviews.
- Letters of recommendations

# Nuts and Bolts

- Block Schedule
- 90 Minute Classes
- Odd Days/Even Days
- Access Tutorial (Period 8)
- Advisory
- 7 Classes/7 Teachers
  - How to find out how your student is doing?
- [www.sunsetapollos.org](http://www.sunsetapollos.org)



# Grades

- A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0
- What grade is considered “passing?”
- Student/Parent Vue
- Progress Reports/Checkpoints
- When do grades “count?”
- Transcripts
- Weighted grades



# Strategies for a Successful Transition (Students AND Parents!)

- Involvement/Connection to School
  - Club/Sports/Activities – can be a huge motivator for students!
- Study Skills
  - Time Management/Organization/Goal Setting
  - Find a system that works for your family
- Advocacy/Communication
  - Find the balance. Stay involved and know what's going on but encourage your student to develop self-advocacy skills.
- Knowing Your Resources
  - Helping to build a support network for your student
  - Find out where to go for help
- Knowing the Rules
  - More Freedom = More Responsibility. Setting firm limits.



# Forecasting Information

- Counselors visited feeder middle schools twice this month.
- Program Planning Guide and Forecast Sheets were distributed to all 8<sup>th</sup> Graders.
- PICK CLASSES CAREFULLY – Student choices determine staffing! Changes in the Fall cannot be guaranteed.
- Completed Forecast Sheets are submitted to the middle schools and reviewed by Sunset Counselors.
- Students will complete 4-year plans in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade Advisories next year.

# Freshmen Courses

- Lit and Comp 9 (1.0)
- World History 9 (1.0)
- Science (1.0)
- Math (1.0)
- Total Fitness PE (.5)
- Health 1 (.5)
- Electives (2.0)
- TOTAL – 7 CREDITS



# Which levels to pick?

- Lit and Comp and World History – Same for All
- Science and Math – Teacher recommendation
- World Language – Teacher recommendation





# Honors Diploma

- Students must earn at least 12 credits from the list of qualifying courses.
- 6 of those classes must be considered an “Advanced Level Course”.
- We encourage all students to consider earning the Honors Diploma!
- The IB Diploma and the Honors Diploma are different.

# Honors Classes in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Lit/Comp 9- Honors
- World History 9- Honors
- Algebra 2 or above
- STEM Physics
- STEM Chemistry

# Which electives?

- World Language – Is your student ready?
- Fine Arts, Business, Technology
- PE – How many to take?
- Supervised Study – Is it right for your student?
- Must add up to 2.0 credits
- Read Course Descriptions – Let your student decide what he/she may enjoy.
- Alternates please!
- Your signature.



# Classes and Programs to Look Forward To



Clubs!

Sports!

Leadership!

Link Crew!

Art!

Music!

Theater!

Business!

Technology!

Honors Diploma!

IB Classes!

Health Careers!

PSU Challenge!

Auto Tech (AHS)!



**Thank You!**

We look forward to getting to know you and your students!

**Go Apollos!**

[www.sunsetapollos.org](http://www.sunsetapollos.org)