



Smoke Signals

February, 2009

Kathy Yamane, Editor

From the Desk of David Vannasdall

Questions?

If you have a question, someone else is surely having the same question!

We have one more issue at the end of this school year to answer your questions and concerns.

Please contact us!

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Parent Tip:

Stay

Involved at the High School Level. Your child still needs your hands-on support!

“For everywhere we look, there is work to be

done. The state of the economy calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act — not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth. We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together. We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its cost. We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories.

And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. And all this we **will do.” I pull this paragraph out of President Obama’s speech, because our students will be the instruments who will “meet the demands of a new age”.** Arcadia high school students have been and will be educated to make a connection between personal success, contribution to Arcadia High school and then translated to the greater community. We encourage a connection that will nourish a support network of friends and adults who share common interests.

In the past few years, we have been bold, we are in the midst of construction. Our infrastructure is changing. We will have a Science Building and a New Administration Building in the next couple of years. Cables and lines have been threaded throughout the school. Networks to meet the demands of technology and new education tools. Our alumni will come onto a campus they do not know. However the basic purpose and mission of Arcadia High School has remained the same—to stimulate intellectual curiosity and foster an enthusiasm for learning. We are dedicated to educating students in a challenging and supportive environment.

When your students arrive at Arcadia High school, we encourage the student and their family unit to get involved and connected at AHS. We are a community with a focus; to transform our student as a functioning member of our community, our society, our country, to meet the future with confidence.



High School Registration

Believe it or not, it's almost time for students to begin thinking about next year's classes. Starting the week of March 2nd, Counselors will conduct Information Assemblies and Course Selection Sessions with all junior, sophomore, and freshman students and parents.

For the current 8th graders students, the information assemblies will be conducted the first week of April at their respective middle schools.

For the parents of current 8th graders, **Incoming Freshman Orientation Night is scheduled for 7p.m., April 16th in the North Gym.**

The scheduling process involves the following steps:

Course Selection Assembly – students receive

Curriculum Guide

Course Selection Draft Sheet

Grade level information sheet

Student and Parent research and review classes

Read Class Descriptions in the Curriculum Guide.

Talk to teachers and students about classes in which they are interested in.

Choose carefully – there is a “**No Drop**” policy for all students.

Students Meet with Counselors to select classes

Students receive transcript and high school graduation status report

Students bring completed Draft Course Selection Sheet to meeting

Counselors meet individually with all students to review their transcript, graduation status report, future educational plans and options, summer school recommendations and attendance. Together they will fill out the final Course Selection Sheet and complete a thorough review of their high school process.

- Students take Course Selection Sheet home for **parent signature**.

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High School Registration (continued from page 2)

Middle School students return the Course Selection Sheet to the Middle School office by the stated due date.

With the new semester starting, it's a good time to review the grades from the first semester. It's important for the current 8th graders to know that the grades they get in the first and second semester of this school year directly affects the classes they can take their freshman year. In addition, the grades affect eligibility status for athletics and activities. Specific pre-requisites for classes can be found in the course curriculum guide.

2009-2010 Course Selection/ Information Assemblies for students

March 31, April 1-2 – Current 8th Grade students

Parent Course Selection Information Meetings:

April 16th – Incoming Freshman Orientation Night

Did You know?

- AHS has a graduation rate of 99.9%
- 99% of our students go on to further education.
- AHS has the highest rate of admission to the University of California system in the nation.
- There are 61 chartered clubs
- There are over 50 athletic teams currently at AHS
- Our Music Program includes:
 1. Three Concert Bands
 2. Nationally Recognized Marching Band
 3. Three string orchestras
 4. A symphony orchestra
 5. Freshman treble choir
 6. Men's choir
 7. Girls show choir (New Spirit)
 8. Mixed show choir (Chanteurs)
 9. Concert Choir
- Average class size of 32 students
- 100% of our AHS teachers are credentialed.
- 8 award winning academic teams. These include Constitution Team, Speech and Debate, Science Decathlon, etc.

Florida Trip



[BusinessWe](#)

Future Arcadia High Musicians – Take Note!



All the World is a Stage for our Drama Production

Students

The staff of the Instrumental Music Department has many opportunities to help you feel at home when you start the first day of school on August 31, 2009. Specifically, if you are enrolling in any of the following groups: Orchestra, Color Guard, Percussion, or Marching Band, please take note of this information.

Even before the current school year is over, there are many performances for you to take advantage of. It's a great chance to see what you'll have the opportunity to be a part of next year. And, once you're actually participating in these groups, you won't be able to be in the audience any more!

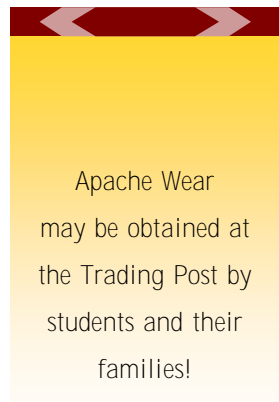
Percussion and Color Guard end their indoor season with a **Spring Show**. You will be able to see all three of the guard groups as well as the three percussion performance ensembles. This year the Show will be held on May 9, starting at 6pm in the North Gym. May 19 & 20 are the dates for the **Spring Pops Concerts** in which all three **Orchestras** and the three **Concert Bands** perform popular and contemporary music. These concerts take place at 7pm in the North Gym.

If Marching Band is in your future, set aside the week after your 8th grade year ends for **New**

Marcher's Camp. It will be held at the high school June 15-19. Look for details including times and what to bring, before the end of this year. Additionally, Mr. Sherrill, AHS percussion instructor, will be getting audition information out to your current music teachers in the next couple of months. If you are interested in trying out for Color Guard, there will also be information regarding this sent to your schools before June. **Marching Camp**, also at the high school, will be held August 17-21 and is critical for all marching members (grades 9-12) to attend, as you will begin to learn the 2009 competitive field show this week.

Last, but certainly not least, **all music students** are strongly encouraged to attend Music Camp the week of August 23-28. It is held up in the beautiful setting of Idyllwild in the San Jacinto Mountains, and is absolutely essential to starting the year off on the right foot. Orchestra members, as well as all of the marching units, have the chance to get small group professional instruction, work together in larger settings, and perhaps even more importantly, get the chance to know their fellow music students before school begins. That way, on the first day of school, you will already have a couple of hundred new

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Apache Wear may be obtained at the Trading Post by students and their families!

GO APACHE!



Our Government Team is one of 8 Competitive Academic Teams.

Notes for Musicians Continued

Student Tip:

Look for
Opportunities!

friends! Look for registration information to arrive at your home for Music Camp before this year is over. Do everything possible to attend – you won't regret it!

Finally, for virtually anything you want to know about instrumental music at Arcadia High School, visit our website:

www.arcadiamusic.org. We can't wait to have you join us!

-Dan Bump, President, Arcadia Music Club

Orchestra Benefit Dinner

The 15th annual Orchestra Benefit Dinner and Concert will be held on February 28th in the Arcadia Community Center, starting at 5:30 p.m. This year's annual fundraising event is themed "Beyond the Sea." It begins with a delicious catered dinner, followed by entertainment featuring string ensembles of AHS Orchestra students, and guest artist Drew Tretick. An internationally recognized violist, Mr. Tretick plays the electric violin. He has performed for the London Symphony Orchestra, Downtown Disney and is featured often on PBS. The grand finale will showcase 350 orchestra performers surrounding our guests. It will be an exciting and memorable evening for you to enjoy. The proceeds of this event provides funds for the AUSD Music Program. All contributions are tax-deductible. For more information, please contact Linda Chan 355-4204, proflin@earthlink.net. Tickets may be obtained from Beatrice Lin 446-0507, beatrice191007@yahoo.com



Homecoming 2008

INTERESTED IN GOING OUT FOR A SPORTS TEAM?

While not required, the summer Arcadia Educational Foundation (AEF) athletic classes are a great way to get introduced to the high school athletic program. If your student is interested in sports, please consider signing him or her up for AEF summer sport program.

Also, summer is the time to take care of the physical exam required for athletic participation. Don't wait until tryouts are announced.

Tryouts for the fall teams begin in August. Most of the winter and spring teams have their tryouts in September and October. Please

check <http://teachers.ausd.net/athletics/> for the try out schedule.

To try out for a team, a student must be cleared through the athletic office.

Clearance packets can be found at <http://athletics.ausd.net/>

LIST SERVE

Want to receive regular e-mail updates of what is happening at AHS? Contact ahspta@ausd.net to be added to the AHS List Serve.

Student Athlete Life



Calendar of Events for Incoming 9th Graders

February 2009

- 5 AHS PTSA Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Arcadia City Council Chambers
- 7 ACT Test Date - <http://www.actstudent.org>
- 9 Lincoln's Birthday Observed - no school
- 11 Parent meeting for the 09-10 Pep Squad. AHS Little Theater at 7:00 p.m. GO TEAM!
If you would like to try out please attend the mandatory pep informational parent meeting.
If you can not attend contact Ms. Erickson at (626) 821-8370 ext 110 terickson@ausd.net
- 12 Hispanic Booster Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria
- 16 Washington's Birthday observed - no school
- 21 Sadie Hawkins Dance – 8 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. – North gym
- 26, 27 Drama - Coffee House in the Little Theatre
- 28 Orchestra Benefit Dinner 6 - 10 p.m. (Arcadia Community Center)

March 2009

- 4 Swim Test at lunch
- 4 Orchestra Vertical Concert (OR3) - 7 p.m. - Pasadena High School
- 5 AHS PTSA Meeting - 7 p.m. - Arcadia City Council Chambers
- 10-11 CAHSEE (Exit exam)
- 12 Hispanic Booster Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria
For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsHispanic>
- 13 Chinese Parents Booster Club Meeting - 7:00pm in AHS Cafeteria
For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsChineseBoosterClub>
- 14 SAT Test only - <http://www.collegeboard.com>
- 23-27 Traffic Safety Week
- 24-28 Advanced Drama: Little Shop of Horrors, 7:00pm Little Theater
For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsDrama>
- 26 Band Vertical Concert - 7 p.m.
- 31 Quarter Finals – English, ELD, Science, & Foreign Language
- 31 Eighth Grade Course Selection/ Information Assemblies

April 2009

- 1 Eighth Grade Course Selection/ Information Assemblies
- 1 Spring Concert 7 p.m. - OR1, OR2, CB1, CB3 (North Gym)
- 1 Quarter Finals – Art, Performing Arts, Physical Education, & Other
- 2 Eighth Grade Course Selection/ Information Assemblies
- 2 AHS PTSA Meeting - 7 p.m. - Arcadia City Council Chambers
- 2 Quarter Finals – Social Science, Career & Technology, Math
- 3 End of third quarter
- 4 ACT Test Date - <http://www.actstudent.org>
- 6-10 Spring Vacation
- 10 Chinese Parents Booster Club Meeting - 7:00pm in AHS Cafeteria
- 10-11 Arcadia Invitational Track Meet - AHS
- 13 Grad Night meeting - 7:00 p.m. in the AHS Cafeteria/Apache Pit
For Details: <http://ahspta.com/DetailsGradNight>
- 15 Swim Test at lunch
- 16 Hispanic Booster Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m. Cafeteria
- 16 Incoming Freshman Orientation Night, 7p.m., North Gym