



CREEKSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

Mark Miller, Principal

Fall 2011

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year! This Newsletter provides you with key information for the beginning of the school year.

Creekside High School is proud of our ongoing work toward providing an exceptional educational environment. The gentle, caring, and supportive atmosphere provided for students along with our continual commitment towards excellence is at the forefront of our daily work. We welcome the constant development of partnering with our parent community and look forward to the opportunity of getting to know you. We encourage all of our community to attend our Back-to-School Night Celebration on Tuesday, September 27. It is always great to have you here in support of your son or daughter and in supporting the efforts of our teachers and counselors. We are proud of the educational experience we have to offer to all our students, and look forward to an exciting and outstanding 2011-2012 school year.

Fall Semester's Importance: The fall semester is so very important for students and for our school. By attending school regularly, learning how to earn double credits and developing a strong work ethic, students will dramatically improve their chances to get back on track, to graduate and/or prepare for a return to their traditional high school.

Additionally, the fall semester provides students with multiple opportunities to prepare for and demonstrate their abilities relative to assessing their knowledge and skills on the various state and local assessments, which come later in the spring semester.

Lastly, fall is an especially critical time for our seniors who are attempting to complete all diploma requirements so they can graduate on time with their classmates. The fall semester sets the tone for the rest of the year.

Progress Reports: Students and parents will be receiving 1st quarter progress reports the week of October 10. These reports will give parents and students a snapshot of the first 4 weeks of the quarter and what needs to be done prior to the quarter ending November 10.

Students, we ask you to remember, at Creekside High School *"every day is a new day to succeed."* How does succeeding at CHS occur for you?

- **Academics:** *Succeeding in school rests squarely on hard work as students attack the challenges teachers shape for them to become the best each student can be as they master skills and content.*
- **Attitude:** *Come to school with a positive attitude, and be ready to learn. Remember, "Life is 10% of what happens to you, and 90% of how you react to it."*
- **Attendance:** *Attendance is critically important to the success of our students. If you are here, you succeed; if you're not in school, "we cannot help you to succeed."*

Sincerely yours,

Mark



After-school Leadership Academy Begins

Continuing at Creekside for the 2011-2012 school year is the Creekside Leadership Academy (CLA). The City of Irvine has partnered with Creekside and Project Success to provide an after school program that aims at developing leadership skills and building a positive culture on campus. Students, referred by their teachers and staff, underwent an interview process to be selected. The results are a fantastic group of 13 students who will participate in the first six-week session and plan campus wide activities, participate in community service, and more.

Our first community service project was at Families Forward in Irvine, where students learned about the needs of people in our community and helped sort and prepare food to be given to those that are in need of extra help. We are looking forward to an exciting year of events and activities that will help foster character building on campus and in the community.

With more six-week sessions to come this year, more students will have the opportunity to participate in this four-day per week after school program.

MyIUSD.Org – The Parent Portal Connection

The MyIUSD.Org Parent Portal is IUSD's parent information service. It is made available to allow parents to view information over the Internet regarding their student. The Parent Portal is a secure and private online resource that provides rapid access to your son or daughter's attendance, grades, and unofficial transcript. To be connected to MyIUSD.org portal, you must have a computer with Internet connection. To access the MyIUSD.org Parent Portal, please click on <https://my.iusd.org/>.

Parents, also a reminder to each of you regarding how easy it is to contact us: Our website contains both telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for the entire faculty and staff.

REMINDER – Teacher Conference Periods

From 1:45-2:30 p.m. daily (except monthly staff meeting Tuesdays), each of our teaching staff has a conference period, which allows students or parents/guardians the opportunity to meet or talk.

Remember students, this same "teacher conference" period, is a moment to talk with one of your teachers when class time isn't a good time, or you need some extra help or you want to talk about an extra-credit project related to the course. Please, use these conference periods to better communicate with your teachers.

Important Calendar Reminders –Mark Your Family Calendars

Need to remember a CHS related event or check the calendar? You can click on our website to access either our Year-at-a-Glance Calendar or our Monthly Web-Event Calendars for greater details: <http://www.iusd.org/chs/>

- Minimum Day: September 27
- Veteran's Day Holiday – No School, Friday, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Holiday—Thursday-Friday November 24-25.

ATTENDANCE & DISCIPLINE

School Attendance Information or Update

Good school attendance is critical to school success. We take attendance period-by-period and record those results each hour of the day. Our Attendance Clerk, Laurie Monroe, will contact parents of students who are reported absent.

Parents, if you know your student will be out due to illness or a medical appointment, please contact and let Laurie know. Laurie can be reached via the 24-Hour Attendance Hotline: 949-936-7401.



What happens if my child gets sick at school?

All students who are not feeling well must visit the Health Office before being excused to go home. Please do not encourage your student to call you from their cell phone.

Students will be excused from school if they have a temperature of 100.0 degrees or higher or if they are exhibiting symptoms such as frequent and productive cough; sneezing; vomiting; an undiagnosed rash; severe sore throat with difficulty swallowing or other symptoms that interfere with the student's ability to participate in normal learning activities.

If your student is sent home or stays home because you've determined they are ill, please do not allow your student to return to school if they are still running a fever or exhibiting contagious symptoms that could infect other students or staff even if they tell you "I just can't miss school because" or "I have to go to school, I have a test." Students should be without fever for 24 hours before returning to school.

We understand students do not want to get behind in their classes, but returning too soon if still ill not only can make for a longer recovery period, but also puts many other students and staff at risk for infection.

If all parents keep sick students at home, everyone will be able to stay healthier which will mean fewer lost work days and fewer illnesses for parents, too. If your student has seen a physician for their illness, please request a note from him/her clearing your student's return to school.

Student Behaviors

The Creekside faculty and staff have had several discussions regarding on-going behaviors being exhibited by students, which affect the learning environment in negative ways.

In this newsletter, we'll emphasize three focus areas the faculty and staff will be aggressively working on with students this school year:

ITEM #1: Cell Phones at School

Whereas students may possess cell phones or other electronic devices on campus, they cannot activate, use or lend them to another person during the school day (8 a.m.-1:15 p.m.).

Behavioral Consequences:

First Offense: cell phone device seized, student warned, and device returned to the student the next school day.

Second: cell phone device seized and device returned to parent or guardian the next school day.

Third and subsequent offenses: cell phone device is seized, the student suspended home, and the device returned to the parent at the parent conference.

Key Element about cell phones for students:

No device should be seen or displayed at school anytime during the school day.

Any device must be turned OFF (de-activated).

ITEM #2: IUSD/CHS Dress Code Enforcement

"IUSD School Board Policy 5132(a): All students of the Irvine Unified School District shall attend school and school activities dressed in a manner that is conducive to and promotes a positive learning environment. Appropriate school dress and personal appearance are clean, are not hazardous to student safety, and do not disrupt instruction."



Current examples of inappropriate school dress of continuing concern for faculty and staff upon which we will be acting:

- Oversized pants
- Clothing exposing undergarments
- Clothing exposing midriff, upper torso, etc.
- Clothing revealing or provocative

Key to students: wear clothes in a manner appropriate for an educational setting.

ITEM #3: ATTENDANCE and 1st PERIOD TARDIES

Working on good attendance for many Creekside students is a critical issue, and it all starts with getting to school on time. Please ensure that students are on campus prior to 8:00. All students arriving after that time will be required to check in at the main office to get a tardy slip to class.

Helpful Parent Tips for Better Attendance:

- Talk with your teen about the importance of attending school regularly
- Avoid scheduling family trips or doctor/dentist appointments during school hours
- Make sure kids eat healthy foods and get enough sleep and exercise
- Don't accept excuses for why your teen "must" miss or be late for school
- Discuss what happened at school each day
- Support school rules and consequences for skipping class or being tardy
- Visit school regularly: the more you are here, the more important school becomes to your student
- Direct your student to bring home progress reports [Creekside's green (daily) and/or pink (weekly) cards]
- Check your teen's attendance by periodically calling the attendance office directly

Counselor Corner:

Counselor Caseloads

In addition to Marilyn Hale, we welcome two new counselors to Creekside this year. Melissa Gibson will be at the Creek M-F, and Michelle Trapp will join us every Thursday.

Marilyn Hale's caseload includes all students with last names A-through-I.

Melissa Gibson's caseload includes all students with last names J-through-Z.

Both Melissa and Marilyn will respond to individual student issues and crises when they arise and both will work diligently with our other resources: Melissa DiScala, School Psychologist, Project Success' Lindsay Alhadoff, Support Specialist.

Cougar Den Calling!!

Calling all Cougars! Is your student looking for opportunities to earn extra credits? If so, then they should attend Cougar Den! Cougar Den provides students with a safe and productive after school homework support club. Come join us M-Th from 1:30-2:30. Please refer to the updated [Cougar Den Schedule](#).

CAHSEE Reminder

The time is quickly approaching for the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE). Junior and Senior students who have not yet passed one or both sections of the CAHSEE will be taking the exam on November 1 (English Section) and November 2 (Math Section). Please remind your student to get a good night's sleep before taking the exam and to also eat breakfast the morning of the exam.



Project Success Counseling Program

Once again, Project Success is underway at Creekside. This semester, close to 50 students will be served by our Project Success Support Specialist – Lindsay Alhadoff. Students will meet once a week, during class time, to discuss their particular life challenges, share common experiences with peers, and learn new strategies and coping mechanisms to address prevailing issues.

Project Success groups focus upon achieving improvements in many areas of students' personal and academic lives, including getting along with parents, teachers and peers, managing stress and anger, communication skills and drug and alcohol awareness - to name a few.

Earning Credits

Below are general guidelines for earning credit at Creekside. Please be sure to discuss with your teachers and counselors about the "how" so it's clear how you can accomplish accelerating your credits.

In order to receive Regular Credit, a student:

- MUST attend daily with few absences
- MUST arrive to class on time
- MUST work diligently using class time wisely
- MUST complete daily classroom assignments thoroughly and accurately
- MUST make up work because of excused absences
- MUST meet class/course, curriculum, and teacher-designed objectives based on California Curriculum Standards

For example:

15 hours of class work = 1 regular credit

30 hours of class work = 2 regular credits

45 hours of class work = 3 regular credits

Earning Accelerated Credits**

In order to receive Accelerated Credit, a student:

- MUST earn regular credits first
- MUST exhibit exemplary attendance by attending class a minimum of 90% during each 3 week grading period in which accelerated credits are provided daily for all classes
- MUST go beyond required class work (i.e., special projects, research-based reports, multimedia projects, advanced reading/literature essays,
- MUST complete course requirements before exiting the course
- MUST meet ALL criteria for a Work Permit to earn Community Experience elective credits

Senior Graduation Status Letters

Once we have completed the first quarter, we will mail home to parents/guardians 'grad status' letters. These letters tell CHS seniors their current standing and graduation probability. We will include current transcripts on each student with these letters so both parent and student can review the student's academic record and progress. Be watching for these in mid-November.

Community-Based Learning and Credit-Earning Possibilities

Remember students who are working (i.e., over 16 years or older with paid employment or are who are volunteering in the community) may be eligible to earn elective course credit towards graduation (maximum community-base credit = 40 credits towards graduation).

Frequently, students become employed or participate in some kind of unpaid service and completely forget this credit-earning opportunity. See your counselor for more information.



Work Permits: Do you have a current one?

Paid-employment students under 18 years of age must have a valid work permit. You can obtain the work permits from Laurie Monroe, Attendance Clerk.

Remember: continuing eligibility to work is governed by your school attendance. In effect, your good school attendance means you keep your work permit and continue working. Poor school attendance can result in your work permit being cancelled and you losing a job.

Return to Traditional High School

In order to be eligible to return to traditional high school the following credit threshold must first be earned:

GRADE	TIMELINE	TOTAL NUMBER OF REQUIRED CREDITS
12	END OF SECOND QUARTER	190
11	END OF SCHOOL YEAR	160
11	END OF SECOND QUARTER	135
10	END OF SCHOOL YEAR	105
10	END OF SECOND QUARTER	80
9	END OF SCHOOL YEAR	40

After the credit threshold is achieved, the following criteria are required:

ACADEMICS:

1. Complete a minimum of two quarters
2. Enrolled in five class periods
3. Earn a minimum of 15 credits per quarter
4. Maintain 3.0 GPA (i.e. B's or better)
5. Senior students must complete Algebra I**
6. Senior students must also pass both English and Mathematics sections of the CAHSEE**

ATTENDANCE:

1. A minimum of 90% attendance/tardies in all five class periods
2. Pattern of habitual tardiness and/or truanancies are unacceptable

ATTITUDE:

1. Demonstrate strong work ethic in all five class periods
2. Positive discipline and few, if any, behavioral referrals is mandatory

CHSPE & GED Tests

Successfully passing The California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE – “chesspee”) demonstrates a student’s proficiency in reading, writing, and math skill competencies in a high school setting. Additionally, successful passage of the CHSPE affords the student, with parental permission, the opportunity to exit high school with a Certificate of Proficiency. The Certificate has, by state law, the same rights and privileges as a high school diploma. The next CHSPE administration dates:

Saturday, October 15, 2011

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Saturday, June 16, 2012



To sign up, see your counselor, or visit the CHSPE website: <http://www.chspe.net/registration/>

The GED (General Educational Development) Test can only be taken by students 18 years of age or older or students within two (2) months of their 18th birthday. Like the CHSPEE, successfully passing the GED Test demonstrates a student's proficiency in reading, writing, and math skill competencies in a high school setting. The state of California issues a Certificate of Equivalency to all who successfully complete the exam. By state law, the certificate has all the same rights and privileges as a high school diploma. Here's the California Department of Education web connection for the GED:

http://www.acenet.edu/Content/NavigationMenu/ged/test/Intro_Testtaker.htm.

Students who pass these tests can, of course, continue their work toward their high school diploma and are encouraged to do so; however, they now have an insurance policy relative to participating in graduation.

Some Often Asked GED Questions: When some of our students are approaching or turn 18+ years of age, we are often asked many questions about the GED (General Educational Development) Tests, especially what is meant by "high school equivalency."

The GED Tests are designed to measure, as nearly as possible, the major and lasting skills and concepts associated with four years of regular high school instruction. The five subject areas include Writing Skills, Social Studies, Science, Interpreting Literature and the Arts, and Mathematics, the core subjects common to all high school courses of instruction. A person passing the GED is awarded a "Certificate of Equivalency" because they have demonstrated equivalent high school educational skills. For some of our 18+-year-old students (especially low on credits), the GED is a viable option to consider.

PBIS

What does PBIS stand for?

"PBIS" is short for Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports. This language comes directly from the 1997 reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). PBIS is used interchangeably with SWPBS, which is short for "School-Wide Positive Behavior Supports." PBIS is based on principles of applied behavior analysis and the prevention approach and values of positive behavior support.

What is PBIS?

PBIS is a framework or approach for assisting school personnel in adopting and organizing evidence-based behavioral interventions into an integrated continuum that enhances academic and social behavior outcomes for all students. PBIS IS NOT a packaged curriculum, scripted intervention, or manualized strategy. PBIS IS a prevention-oriented way for school personnel to (a) organize evidence-based practices, (b) improve their implementation of those practices, and (c) maximize academic and social behavior outcomes for students. PBIS supports the success of ALL students.

PBIS and CHS

Students and staff working collectively, identified three character traits for which they believe all CHS students can achieved. They are: Character, Honor, and Self-Direction. Working with students, we have identified specific behavioral expectations for each trait. This language will be used in classrooms to acknowledge students who are demonstrating these appropriate behaviors. Please take a moment to review and discuss with your student(s).



Creekside High School Behavioral Expectations Matrix

“To prepare students academically, socially, and emotionally to be responsible and contributing members of a 21st century society”

CHS Students will demonstrate:	Indoor Area To include: classroom, office, computer lab, MPR, restroom	On Campus Setting To include: break, passing period, classroom pass during period, entering and leaving school	Community Setting To include: attending other schools events and other community functions	Home Setting
<u>Commitment</u> “an agreement or pledge; the instance of being emotionally impelled”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep trying no matter what • Be honest-do your own work • Do all work to the best of your ability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come to school everyday • Come with a purpose each day • Be where you’re supposed to be when you’re supposed to be there • Leave the area in better condition than when you found it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pick up trash • <i>Back up your word/fulfill obligations</i> • Be an active member of your community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for a successful day starts the night before • Follow the rules of the house • Set measurable goals to get good grades
<u>Honor</u> “high respect for worth, merit in one's beliefs and actions: a person of honor”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solve problems in a mature manner • Treat others as you would like to be treated • Follow classroom expectations and school rules • <i>Maintain good reputation/ do the right thing even when no one is looking</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be understanding of people of different cultures, races, religions, and abilities • Treat all school property with care • Don’t fight to prove a point • Respect personal space • Consider the feelings of others before you act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in community service like Big Brothers/Big Sisters • Respect Other’s property • Show respect and courtesy to everyone you meet • <i>Refrain from gossip</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with chores • Do not bring illegal things into the house • Do tasks the first time you are asked • Encourage others to do the right thing
<u>Self-Direction</u> “Directed, or guided by oneself; take initiative; your own GPS system”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work cooperatively • Ask for help when you need it • Motivate yourself to do your best • Use time wisely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge anger and be cooperative in all situations • Use appropriate language and tone of voice • Be a leader/set a good example • Become a dependable user of information • Listen with the intent to understand • Use time wisely • Help without being asked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take initiative • Leave on time to be on time • Think it through before you act 	



Publicity Opt-Out Form

Each year, students in the Irvine Unified School District take part in engaging lessons and exciting activities, and many are honored for their academic or extracurricular accomplishments. This occasionally draws the attention of newspaper and magazine reporters, photographers, television news crews and other media representatives. In addition, our district often uses pictures of students and video images to highlight local achievements and to document our history.

While we are pleased to spotlight the deeds of our students, we also recognize that some families may not wish to be the subject of publicity, so we've made it easy for parents to opt-out if they choose.

Those who do not consent to the use of their child's image, name or schoolwork on a school or district website or in another publication should follow these three steps:

- 1. Go to www.iusd.org/enrollment and click on "Publicity Opt-Out Form" at the bottom of the page**
- 2. Fill out, sign and print the brief form**
- 3. Return the form to your child's school**