

TROY HIGH-LITES

Troy High School Parent Newsletter • October 2011

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Guidance Office 248.823.2715

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Dear Parents:

We continue to receive good news about our students' performance in challenging courses that makes me extremely proud to serve as Troy's principal. Troy High School's Advanced Placement Equity and Excellence score for 2011 stayed strong at 54%. This means that 54% of our students in the Class of 2011 graduated having passed at least one AP exam during their high school career. Furthermore, the percentage of students passing AP exams from the pool of test takers increased to 90%, a figure that continues to outpace state and national averages (our annual passing rate has hovered around 90% for many years). This means that we continue to do a great job making postsecondary experiences appropriately available to a wide body of students and ensuring their success using standardized measures.

To put the 54% AP Equity and Excellence score in perspective, one should compare the figure with that of other similar schools. Comparing it with last year's top Michigan public schools according to Washington Post's list, the 54% statistics will again put us right at the top of the state (and nation) for large, traditional public high schools.

Obviously, this is only a single pixel contributing to the successful picture of THS. There are many other measures of school quality and success. Also, we must be mindful that education is an individualized experience, and each learner's needs are unique. No program or opportunity can possibly meet the needs of all students. Yet, we should pause and celebrate this success. Our students, parents, and educators deserve a round of applause for accepting the challenge of a rigorous curriculum - including many courses beyond just those bearing the AP designation - that prepare students for the demands of today's postsecondary environment. Congratulations are in order for our entire school community.

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2011 Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences are earlier this school year



Thursday, October 20

12:30-3:30 p.m.

&

5:30-8:30 p.m.



Park in the student parking lot and enter the building through the gym/pool entrance. Your student's progress report will be distributed at Parent-Teacher Conferences. Progress reports will also be available on Edline after October 14. (Report cards will be available on Edline after November 11.)

Thursday, October 20, is a half-day for students
(dismissal at 10:36 a.m.)

National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Students Named

Please see Page 3 of this newsletter where Troy High's 29 National Merit Semifinalists and 16 Commended students are listed.

Troy High School Annual Report

Our 2010-2011 Annual Report is available online. The report includes standardized test results and our "A" grade from the State of Michigan. Please visit www.troycolts.org and click on the Annual Report link. The data has been standardized so that the viewer can compare proficiency levels across different schools.

Troy High Mission Statement

The purpose of Troy High is to ensure learning for all members of the Troy High community.

Troy High Vision Statement

Troy High will become an exemplary learning community that supports innovation and is committed to continuous improvement. Troy High will address the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of its learners. Troy High will be a place where a collaborative community develops curriculum, instructional strategies, and assessment to ensure all students learn.

Policies and Procedures Worth Repeating

Testing Out

Students who believe that they can move faster than the pace of our advanced curriculum have the option of trying to "test out" of a class. While any student can attempt to test out, it is intended for those students who believe they already know the content of the class.

Forms will be available in the Guidance Office late February or early March. Test expectations for specific tests will be available some time in the spring.

More details regarding testing out will be communicated in future *Troy High-Lites*.

Attention Seniors

Seniors should double check graduation status with their counselors particularly if graduation might be in jeopardy. All students are advised not to let up on studies and have their grades drop second semester. Many colleges request eighth semester grades for those seniors who have been accepted, and a student's admission status can be jeopardized if his/her grades fall.

Senior Honors Convocation

Eligibility for participation in the Senior Honors Convocation will be determined by final grades reported at the end of the seventh semester. If you have any questions about your status, please see your guidance counselor.

Early Exam Procedure

Students are expected to be present for their semester final exams. In the event that an emergency situation arises, parents should put in writing to THS Principal Mark Dziatczak their request for an early test date. Only significantly compelling or unique situations will warrant the scheduling of an early exam. No teacher will provide an early exam to any student without written permission provided by the principal.

Closed Campus Policy

Please be reminded that Troy High has a closed campus policy and students are not to leave during the school day without parent permission. Students who are excused to leave school must check out at the Attendance desk, and when they return, check back in at the Attendance desk. Parents, please do not excuse your child to leave campus to go out to lunch.

Student ID Cards

Students are required to carry their picture ID cards during school and at all student activities. (The ID cards were distributed at the summer orientations.) The ID card will be used for identification, to charge student lunches, and as a hall pass and library card.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Procedure for Deliveries and Communication with Students During the School Day

Again this year, none of our offices or teachers will have student assistants to help coordinate clerical functions in the building. We are asking for your cooperation with deliveries to and communication with students.

- If you have an item or message for your student, please drop it off at the Attendance desk located at the reception area in the Main Office.

- Since guests are not permitted in school, we do not allow siblings, friends, or relatives to visit during the school day or make deliveries to students. All items must be dropped off at the Attendance desk.

- We cannot allow fast food or take out lunch deliveries from parents, relatives, or friends.

- Absences and early dismissal phone calls should be made as early as possible to provide the greatest amount of time possible for us to call students to the Attendance desk to pick up their early dismissal passes.

- Finally, if you have a THS graduate in your household, please advise them to make arrangements to visit their former teachers and school before or after regular school hours. We will be restricting alumni visits during the regular work day unless special arrangements have been secured in writing by the host teacher.

We appreciate your assistance with these procedures. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Main Office for clarification. Thank you very much.

Student Dress Code

It is the responsibility of parents and students to see that school dress is appropriate and not disruptive to the educational process. We want all students to take pride in their appearance, pride in their education, and pride in their school. As we prepare our students for the world of work and promote learning in the school environment, students are expected to dress in compliance with the following guidelines. PLEASE READ THIS LIST CAREFULLY. The *Code of Student Conduct* was updated to include specific items that should be taken into consideration while shopping for back-to-school clothes. Female students should take special note of the guidelines listed below.

1. Students may wear shorts, skirts, or dresses that fall below mid-thigh. They must extend below the student's fingertips when their arms are at their sides.

2. No low-cut tops, halter tops, bare midriff tops, tank tops, or spaghetti strap tops may be worn either by boys or girls. See-through or open-mesh tops are also unacceptable when worn alone. Acceptable tops must have straps that are approximately three fingers wide. Cleavage should be covered appropriately.

3. No clothing with inappropriate messages may be worn. This includes sexual references, profanity, gang affiliation, alcohol, or drugs.

4. No hats, sweatbands, bandanas, or head coverings may be worn in school (prior to the start of school through the end of the school day) unless religiously mandated.

5. Clothing should be of proper fit and not revealing. Baggy pants which display underwear, excessively tight shorts or spandex clothing, revealing tube-style tops, extra-short cutoff shorts and miniskirts, or revealing shirts which display bras are unacceptable.

6. For safety reasons, shoes must be worn at all times.

7. Legging style tights or yoga "pants" worn to school must be covered with a long top, shorts, skirt, or pants extending below the student's fingertips when their arms are at their sides. Tights and leggings worn alone are not considered pants. Students should be sure they are wearing actual pants to school.

Students who wear inappropriate clothing will be asked to change or call their parents to bring them appropriate clothing. Continued problems will result in discipline as outlined in the district's *Rights and Responsibilities - Code of Student Conduct*, including Saturday detention or suspension.

Student Code of Conduct

The *Rights and Responsibilities - Code of Student Conduct* may be found on the district's website at www.troy.k12.mi.us. It is suggested that both parents and students review this document every school year. If you do not have access to the internet, please stop by the Troy High Main Office.

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National Merit Scholarship Program

We are pleased to announce that 29 Troy High School seniors have been designated as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. These students scored in the top 1% in Michigan on the PSAT test last fall. Semifinalists have the opportunity to advance to the next level in the competition, worth approximately \$28 million, to be awarded next spring.

2012 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Sandeep Arakali	Deepthi Krishna	Irene Suh
Neha Bokil	Yujing Liang	James Tan
Shruthi Chandra	Jennifer Liu	Rohan Tangri
Allen Chen	Antonina Malyarenko	Edgar Wang
Lily Chen	Baraka Nasari	Tianqi Wang
Sanjay Devireddy	Hrishikesh Purekar	Annie Xiao
Nicholas Fava	Richard Ren	Wenjia Xu
Jennifer Gleit	Stephen Schmidt	Stephanie Yang
Rachana Gudipudi	Devashraya Singhal	Justin Yuan
Rolland He	Hayley Steele	

Troy High also boasts 16 Commended students in the National Merit Program. These students scored in the top 5% in Michigan on the PSAT.

2012 Commended Students

Kristine Barlow	Sujit Gogineni	Danielle Raykhinshteyn
Ujwal Bharath	Connie Jiang	Alice Shang
Amy Chen	Janani Kumar	Kristen Shetler
Matthew Cui	David Li	Clark Zhang
Lauren Eastes	Alex Liao	
Gratiana Fu	Sara Lin	

Congratulations to all these hardworking students!

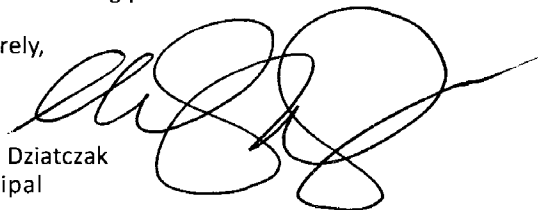
Letter from the Principal *(continued)*

Finally, I want to thank all junior parents who provided help and support as our students sat for the Practice ACT plus Writing Test on Wednesday, September 28. This administration of the test was our best yet because of the focus and excellent behavior of our students. Since we administer the test when school is in session, we are forced to use the Cafeteria and Auxiliary Gym as test sites. Neither location represents the ideal assessment environment. However, our junior students came prepared to the testing locations and put forth their best effort. I thank them and you for your support. Know that the Princeton Review will be facilitating a free Scores Back Strategy Session for interested students and parents on Monday, October 17, from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria. Students interested in attending should sign up in the Main Office for the event. The evening is informative and will also include information about Princeton Review prep resources available to students for purchase. There is no requirement to attend or sign up for any service. The feedback from last year's event was generally positive and was mostly helpful to parents in their attempt to understand the ACT plus Writing examination. Please consider attending. The student sign-up book is on the front counter in the main office.

I wish you and your student a wonderful October as we move toward the end of the first marking period. Go Colts!

Sincerely,

Mark Dziatczak
Principal




Parent Coffee

Join THS principal Mark Dziatczak for coffee and an informational meeting on the following dates...

October 11
November 8
January 10
February 14
March 13
April 10
May 8

Meetings will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Lecture Room unless otherwise noted.



Graduation Announcement and Cap & Gown Ordering

In early September, seniors received information packets from Balfour regarding announcements and caps & gowns. The orders were due the last week in September. The make-up day for ordering graduation items will be Friday, October 14, during all lunches.

Project LEAD

Congratulations to the 2011-2012 Project LEAD officers. After an intense election process, our new leaders include: **Vivian Hu, President; Phillip Yang, Vice President; Ally Liang, Secretary; Alice Shang, Treasurer; Becca Campbell, Point Secretary; Jennifer Gleit, Fundraising; Mindy Kim, PR/Webmaster.** Also, congratulations to all the new chairs that applied and obtained one of the 17 positions.

Project LEAD is a community service organization at Troy High that meets year-long. There are many diverse opportunities for students to become involved in various ways in the community while having fun and learning about the value of volunteering at the same time. Project LEAD has many activities and events, ranging from elementary tutoring to volunteering at the nursing home. Students can usher guests at Comedy for a Cause or attend the annual Hemophilia Party during the Christmas holiday. Students can also volunteer right at school, such as helping out teachers. It is no wonder we're one of the biggest community service clubs at Troy High. Come volunteer with us!

Project LEAD has already started its meetings, but anyone is welcome to join at any time. If you would like to join, please come to the Auditorium on Fridays at 7 a.m. Also, make sure you register online at www.thsprojectlead.com.

Yearbook News

Senior Portraits

Please note: NEW PORTRAIT STUDIO, FOX PORTRAITS

Attention all Senior parents! Our official photographer is Fox Portraits. If you use Fox, your son's or daughter's yearbook photo choice will be automatically delivered to the school. If you choose to use another studio, a photo meeting the following specifications needs to be delivered to Ms. Vettraino in Room 210 by October 31:

- Proof sized, color retouched portrait (Dimensions: 1 3/8 in. x 1 7/8 in)
- Head size (from top of hair to bottom of chin) = 7/8 in.
- Both eyes must show
- No soft focus
- ONLY head and shoulders poses accepted
- Medium blue OR medium blue-gray background (photos without either of these background colors will not be accepted)
- Photo must be a 300 dpi JPEG file submitted on a CD

NOTE: You WILL NOT be in the senior composite if you take your picture at another studio! However, Fox has arranged to take yearbook/composite photos at Troy High School on Saturday, November 5, from 10 am to 3 p.m. so your child can be in the composite. Walk-ins only.

Visit www.foxstudios.net for more information or call 248.740.2744.

Order a Yearbook!

Please visit www.yearbookforever.com to order a yearbook. We are NOT sending order forms home - you must visit the website, enter in the school name and state, and order there with a credit card or electronic check. Yearbooks are \$65 until January 1, so order now before the price increases!

Parent Pride Ads

Senior parents, let the whole school know how proud you are of your graduating son or daughter by purchasing a COLOR Parent Pride Ad in the Gladiator Yearbook! This is your unique opportunity to recognize your senior's achievements and tell him/her exactly how much he/she means to you! The deadline for *priority placement* is November 18. Space is very limited, so order one today! To order, visit our website, www.yearbookforever.com, and click on Parent Pride Ads. (You can order your ad and yearbook at the same time.) Any questions, please e-mail Ms. Vettraino at cvettraino2@troy.k12.mi.us.

Oh là là!! An International Star Coming to Troy High!

Troy High is proud to announce the upcoming concerts of world-renowned French singer Eric Vincent. He will be performing at Troy High on Monday, October 17, at 7 pm. This concert is open to the general public for a fee of \$7, or \$5 for Troy School District students with identification card and their accompanying guests. In addition, on Tuesday, October 18, at 12:15 p.m., there will be a second concert for local student groups and their accompanying teachers.

During his concerts, the language barrier is overcome by his charismatic showmanship and the lively spirit of his music. His songs are a blend of folk, jazz, rock, and ethnic rhythms, dealing with universal themes flavored by his world travels. Eric Vincent has just released a wonderful new CD in collaboration with James Taylor. You will recognize the music as James Taylor's with Eric's lyrics in French, of course! Please check out his website (www.eric-vincent.com) for video clips and lyrics. You will not want to miss this wonderful opportunity to see an amazing Parisian artist who has performed in nearly every corner of the globe.

Please contact Susie Fortuna at sfortuna2@troy.k12.mi.us for further information or tickets. For the October 17 event, tickets are general admission and may be purchased in advance or at the door. The Tuesday afternoon performance is for student groups only and tickets must be reserved in advance. Please respond as soon as possible by email to reserve your seats. We will send you a confirmation email before you remit your payment to Susie Fortuna at Troy High School (4777 Northfield Parkway Troy, MI 48098).

Troy High Senior All-Night Party - June 9, 2012

Party preparations are already underway to make this party one of the most memorable activities that the seniors participate in during their last year at Troy High.

Make sure your son or daughter doesn't miss out on this opportunity. Now is the time to reserve a place for them. Reservations are being taken in the office at the lowest price of the year - \$50. (This price is valid until the end of the first semester when it will increase.) A personalized keepsake ticket is included with each booking and makes a great addition to any memory book.

Don't forget the "Toddler Photo Contest." Send a toddler photo of your child (with name on the back) to the office so it can be used as part of a fun identification game at the party. Please don't choose something irreplaceable as unfortunately these photos cannot be returned.

We are also in need of donations to help make the All-Night Party as successful as possible in these difficult economic times. Monetary donations can be dropped off in the office or mailed to the school c/o All-Night Party. Make checks payable to THS All-Night Party. All donors will be recognized on the THS marquee located on Long Lake Rd.

ATTENTION FRESHMAN, SOPHOMORE, AND JUNIOR PARENTS...

We need you to volunteer please! You are especially encouraged to help with the All-Night Graduation Party for our senior class. The participation of underclassman parents as volunteers at the party is a long-held tradition at Troy High and is a key component of its success.

Listed below are the volunteer opportunities available. All are for the night of the party unless otherwise specified and are divided into two shifts, 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. or midnight to 3 a.m. Mary Strobridge, the volunteer coordinator, will be happy to give you more information on any of them. Please contact her (medstro2@aol.com or 248.267.5837) with details of which slot you would like to fill.

- Decorations (Friday afternoon or Saturday morning)
- Casino
- Entertainment
- Midway
- Refreshments (party shifts plus Friday or Saturday daytime)
- Tie-Dye T-Shirts

We are also in need of parents to join the All-Night Party Planning Committee. Chair positions needed are: Sophomore Co-Chairs and Volleyball Chair. One Co-Chair is needed for each: Refreshments and Entertainment. Shadows (help current chair this year and chair next year) are needed for: Casino, Midway, and Tie-dye T-shirts. Please contact the ANP Chairs for more information. Thank you in advance for becoming a part of this exceptional event for our seniors.

ANP Chairs

Paula Talarico pmtalarico@aol.com or 248.828.3084

Bernie Lourim lourim@comcast.net or 248.649.7378

- - Guidance Office News - -

For more information regarding scholarships, college visits, financial aid, and much more, go to www.troycolts.org/pdfs/Guidance%20Update.pdf

9th Grade News

Counselors will be meeting with their ninth-grade students in October. We will go over their student record (CA60), discuss their high school plans, and talk about activities and interests.

Testing Information

Attention Juniors and Advanced Sophomores The PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test will be given at Troy High on Saturday, October 15. Juniors who score well may qualify to become National Merit Scholars and be eligible for college scholarships. Advanced sophomores are encouraged to take the test as practice. Registration will be online at www.totalregistration.net from October 3-13. Please see flyer on this page. Make check payable to Troy High School (checks only).

PLAN Test for Sophomores The PLAN test will be administered to all sophomores on November 16 at Troy High School. No sign up is necessary and there is no fee. Please note that the PLAN test is the practice ACT. The ACT is a college entrance exam and will be given as a component of the MME in your student's junior year.

Preparing for the ACT, a free test preparation booklet published by ACT, is available in the Guidance Office.

College Night

A College Night program is planned for Monday, October 10, at Athens High School from 6:30-8 p.m. Juniors, seniors, and their parents are invited to hear presentations by representatives from Michigan and out-of-state colleges. This is a great opportunity to get firsthand information. Mark your calendars and please attend.

College Information Update

The Counseling Department has developed a web site to keep parents and students informed and updated regarding college visitations, college open houses, scholarship competitions, and other special events. To access the site, please log on to www.troycolts.org. From there, select the *Counseling* button. Information is updated every two weeks and includes phone numbers and web sites that can be accessed directly.

Financial Aid Information

"College Goal Sunday" is an organization that helps students and parents prepare for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). It will

be held this year on February 12 between 2-4 p.m. Go to micollegegoal.org for more information about what to bring and where to go.

How Do I Send My Transcripts to Colleges?

In order to get your transcripts sent to your college(s) of choice, you must first complete your application online. Then you must register to have your high school transcripts sent through Docufide at www.parchment.com. You need only to send your transcripts to Michigan schools. Once your application is complete, and you have registered with Docufide, print out the Counselor Form/School Report and submit to Miss Brubaker in the Guidance Office. At that time, a transcript request form must

be completed with Miss Brubaker, and a \$2 fee for each requested transcript is required. Please contact Miss Brubaker or sign up to see your counselor with any questions or concerns.

NCAA Eligibility

Calling all Troy High School athletes hoping to attend a Division I or Division II college or university! For courses used to determine eligibility through the NCAA, please go to www.ncaaclearinghouse.org, click on the General Information link, go to the List of Approved Core Courses and input the Troy High School code (233603). A list of approved classes will be listed for each subject area. Please see Mr. Turner in the Guidance Office if you have questions.

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PSAT REGISTRATION

OCTOBER 3- OCTOBER 13, 2011

Cost: \$16 Checks ONLY

Register ONLINE: www.totalregistration.net



Instructions to Register

1. Go to student log-in link
2. Enter your email
3. Create a password
4. Complete the **online** registration form
5. Print confirmation pages
6. Bring confirmation page and check for \$16.00
(Payable to Troy High School) to Mrs. Talsma in the guidance office.

Please see Ms. Marzolla in the guidance office with any questions!!!



Be Prepared. Be Confident.
Be Successful. Be a Troian.

