



THE TROUBADOUR EXPRESS

SCHOOLS OF ACADEMICS, VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS,
& TECHNICAL ARTS

Santa Susana High School
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STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS



At 6:30 PM on Wednesday, October 12, the *State of the School Address* will be given by our principal, Jason Peplinski, in the Multipurpose Room. This address will give our community the opportunity to meet our new principal and to familiarize themselves with key issues affecting our school today. Topics to be addressed will include:

- **School Budgets** – *How exactly will learning be affected by the continued decreases in funding for public education this year? Mr. Peplinski will share his plan for Santa Susana High School.*
- **Vision** – *As Santa Susana High School focuses on learning for all students, Mr. Peplinski will share our expected school-wide learning results and how we plan to continue supporting scholarly, skilled, and humane students who are able to demonstrate academic excellence, critical thinking, effective communication, and life and career preparedness by graduation.*
- **Goals** – *Setting specific, measurable outcomes and establishing an action plan for reaching those targets will maintain our school's perseverance of continual improvement. It will also move us toward being one of the top performing high schools in our state. Mr. Peplinski will discuss the specific goals being targeted to help your children get the most out of their experience at Santa Susana High School. We are just baby steps away!*
- **WASC Accreditation** – *This year Santa Susana High School continues evaluating its instructional program. In March 2012, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Team will be visiting Santa Susana High School to confirm these findings and the resulting action plan. They will make recommendations based on their observations which will drive our school's service in upcoming years. Find out more about this process and how you can be involved.*

STUDENT PARKING LOT – PICK UP

Santa Susana High School staff thank you for your concerns regarding pick up in the student parking lot. We have had a traffic advisor make recommendations for sign postings and directing traffic flow. Based on his recommendations, we ask that you kindly **park in the parking spaces while waiting for your child**. Traffic backed up onto Sequoia and Cochran creates a dangerous situation. Thank you for helping us create a safer pick up situation for you and your children and assisting us with traffic flow.

SANTA SUSANA PERFORMING ARTS BOOSTERS

SSPAB is excited to involve parents and our school community in several upcoming events and fundraisers. Help us raise money by redirecting the resources you already have available at your disposal.

- **Fresh & Easy Fundraiser.** SSPAB earns \$1 for every receipt (of at least \$20) that you turn in to the SSHS front office, beginning now and continuing through the end of December. Please shop at any *Fresh & Easy* and turn in your receipts!
- **Fresh & Easy Night.** Do your regular shopping at *Fresh & Easy* at Alamo & Tapo on Wednesday, October 13, from 4 - 8 pm. SSPAB earns 5% of every dollar spent! Invite your friends and neighbors to shop that night too. SSPAB members will be there to help.

KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS!

Yearbook – Our Santa Susana High School yearbook not only won first place at the Ventura County Fair *again* this year, it also won Best Yearbook in Ventura County! Congratulations to returning students *Cassidy Cooper, Karen Hong, Zahraa Tirmizi, Jonathan Bowen, and Ashley Sabatino.*

The Mayor's Humanitarian Award – Congratulations to *Sue Martinez*, President of Santa Susana High School's Performing Arts Center Team (PACT). Through Sue's foresight, hard work and involvement in the Chamber of Commerce, Hospice, the Simi Valley Hospital and the City of Simi Valley, we now host the beautiful Performing Arts Center here at Santa Susana High School. In October, Sue Martinez will be honored by *Bob Huber*, Mayor of Simi Valley, with the Mayor's Humanitarian Award at an awards dinner at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum.

Audition at the Kauffman Center – Congratulations to Santa Susana alumni *Caroline Fogg*. She auditioned to participate in the grand opening gala of the Kauffman Center in Kansas City with some very notable performers. At the dress rehearsal, she met Tommy Tune!

Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. ~John Dewey

BIKE SAFETY



Recently students have expressed concerns about bicycle theft in our community. While students park bikes at Santa Susana High School at their own risk, SSHS is doing our best to prevent losses. We have increased our supervision in the bike area and have notified the Simi Valley Police Department of our concerns.

To protect your bike, we recommend the following:

- ✓ Park your bike in the **new bike racks** located between the 800 building and the cafeteria.
 - ✓ Use a 1½" flexible lock such as the Avenir R-Mor Coil Lock.
 - ✓ Double the lock before you leave your bike unattended.
 - ✓ Keep the make, model name, frame & bike size, and serial number of your bike on hand.
 - ✓ Register your bike with the Simi Valley Police Department. The license fee is \$1.
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COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER

THE CSU System College Fair will be held at the Pasadena Convention Center on Tuesday, September 27, 2011, from 6:00 – 8:30 pm.

- Access all 23 CSU campuses at the CSU College Fair
- Meet with representatives from the 23 CSU campuses and have all your questions answered directly

PSAT – The Preliminary SAT (PSAT) will be given at Santa Susana High School on Saturday, October 15, from 7:45 am to 12:00 pm. All college-bound juniors and sophomores should take the PSAT. The PSAT allows students to practice for the SAT and for juniors, to compete for the National Merit Scholarship and National Hispanic Scholar Awards.



Last year, sophomores and juniors were surveyed. 270 tests were ordered based on students' expressed interest.

Registration – The exam costs \$16 and is payable to the Student Store. Priority registration for juniors is September 22 - 30, 2011. Registration then opens up to sophomores on Monday, October 1. For all students, registration closes on October 12 (or earlier if the test sells out).

A child becomes an adult when he realizes that he has a right not only to be right, but also to be wrong.
—Harry S. Truman



Upcoming Events- September/October



NO SCHOOL – Thursday, September 29, in observance of Rosh Hashanah.

WASC FOCUS GROUP MEETING – Friday, September 30. Focus group team members will meet in the morning to discuss evidence of student learning through vision & leadership, curriculum, instruction, assessment & accountability, and culture & support.

COLLEGE NIGHT – Wednesday, October 5 at 7 pm. After supporting PACT by dining at the Habit, all students interested in college and vocational education after high school should swing by our College Night Open House. Come to visit one college, or ask questions of many different colleges. This annual event should be attended by freshmen through seniors.

DOCENT MEETING – Monday, October 17 at 7 pm. The Performing Arts Center is looking for parents and community members to come out and support the Arts through volunteerism for the 2011-2012 Docent Program. A Meet & Greet, Docent Handbook Training, and Sign-ups will be included.

EARTHQUAKE SHAKE OUT – Thursday, October 20 at 10:20 am. Students will practice the duck and cover earthquake drill in preparation for California's Big One!

FOR PARENTS WITH TEENS

High Schoolers Must Memorize Key Facts to Unleash Brain Power. When was the Civil War fought? Who was the President after Franklin Roosevelt? How do you say *I ate* in Spanish? The truth is that to be successful in school, students need to remember a lot of facts. And brain researchers are learning that some of the oldest methods—notably, *drilling*—are the best ways to do that. When students can recall information automatically, they free the working memory in their brains that is needed for higher-level thinking and understanding deeper concepts. So when your teen sits down to study, have her take the responsibility to memorize key facts. Tell her to make a set of flash cards. She might even look for a computer application (like Cram for custom tests) that makes memorization a game. Another good way to learn things, it turns out, is by testing. So have your teen test herself by answering the questions at the end of the chapter.

Source: V. Heffernan, "Drill, Baby, Drill," *New York Times*, September 19, 2010, www.nytimes.com/2010/09/19/



Your Teen Needs Supervision, Time to Learn Responsibility. Your teen's appearance can be deceiving. You look at him and he looks so grown-up. That may lead you to assume that he also thinks like an adult. The truth is that a teen's body matures a lot faster than his brain. Teens can learn to be responsible—but they need time and a lot of parental supervision.

Here are some ways to help your teen grow into responsibility:

- **Be very clear** about your expectations. Teens aren't very good at reading between the lines. If weekend curfew is midnight, say, "I expect you home by 12:00."
- **Accept that your teen** can't plan ahead. Help him write due dates for school projects on a calendar—and then check it regularly. If the test is Friday, he can't go to the game on Thursday night.

Source: J. and D. Eilium, *Raising a Teenager: Parents and the Nurturing of a Responsible Teen*, Celestial Arts Publishing.

Help Your Teenager Develop Responsibility with Self-Discipline. Students with self-discipline are able to buckle down and do the work needed to achieve.

To promote self-discipline:

- **Avoid rescuing your teen.** If she gets herself into a jam—like forgetting her homework—let her feel the consequences. She needs to learn how to think ahead and solve problems.
- **Avoid doing things for your teen** that she can do for herself. Yes, it might be faster for you to do her laundry. But eventually, she'll have to take care of it herself—and it's better that she learns now while you're there to help.
- **Encourage your teen** to participate in activities that develop self-discipline. Playing a musical instrument means your teen has to be self-disciplined enough to practice regularly. Team sports require your teen to show up to practice on time and give her all.
- **Encourage your teen** to set (and stick to) her own study schedule. She's old enough to decide what study time works best for her.
- **Give your teen choices** about which responsibilities she will share in your home. Don't let her choose *if* she's going to complete a chore, but try to let her decide between washing the car or taking out the trash.

(*Source:* *High School Parents*. The Parent Institute. September, 2011. v19:1)



Welcome to Edline!

Congratulations! Your school has signed up to use Edline. Edline is an easy way for you to keep-up-to-date online. Once you have activated your account, and your school has posted information, you can use Edline to:

The on-line program will enable students, and parents, to:

- Check your student's current grades
- Receive email alerts when grades are updated and posted
- See what homework has not been turned in as well as read notes from the teacher
- Receive emails with school or class information

To begin using your Edline account immediately by following these easy steps:

1. You will need your assigned, personal Edline Activation Code. You can find this code at the bottom of this sheet.
2. Go to www.edline.net and Click on '**Click here if you have a new activation code**'

To see picture and directions of steps 3 and 4, click the Help button at the tip of the Edline page. Follow instructions, or for more information click the '*Print an account setup guide*' link.

3. Fill in the Activation Code. You will be assigned only one parent code for each student. You will receive a parent code for every secondary student you have. Enter each parent code one after the other. You can view your entire student's information from the same log in account. If you do receive the same code for the same student you do not have to enter it again. Click "**Activate This Code**" once and you will have entered all codes.
4. Follow the remaining steps to create your Edline Screen Name and Password. When asked if you already have an account, **click "New Account"** if this is your first time using Edline. If you already have an Edline account, **click "Combine Accounts"** to add this student to your existing account.
5. At this point, you will no longer need your Activation Code; as you will always use your **Screen Name and Password to access Edline.** Don't share this information with anyone! As long as you keep your information private only you will be able to access your student's grades!
6. Make sure you add an email address to your account to receive emails from your teacher, and to be able to retrieve your username and password should you misplace them.

Whenever you login to Edline, click on your student's name in the yellow Shortcuts box. You will then shortcuts to his or her classes, activities, calendar and reports. Be sure to click the Help button and read or print the "Student/Parent Quick-Start Guide" so you can make the most of Edline.

Your student's Edline Account Data

System Id (Office use)	Names:	Activation Codes:

Ventura County Indian Education Consortium

Ventura Unified School District (LEA)
255 W. Stanley Ave., Suite 100
Ventura, California 93001
(805) 641-5000, Ext. 1191
(805) 641-5000, Ext. 1192, Secretary
e-mail Michele.dean@venturausd.org

CONEJO VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
FILLMORE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
HUENEME SCHOOL DISTRICT
MOORPARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OXNARD SCHOOL DISTRICT
OXNARD UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
RIO SCHOOL DISTRICT
SIMI VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
VENTURA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Michele Dean, Coordinator
Title VII/Part A

Presidential Award Winner

RE: Bulletin for PTA Newsletter or Principal's Newsletter **Regarding the Indian Education Program (Two bulletins)**

Please publish this bulletin in your next PTA newsletter and/or Principal's newsletter to make parents aware of the Native American Education Program available to students in your school. Also, list the "Indian Education Program" in your school publications. There are a long and a short form of this bulletin listed below.

Students with American Indian Heritage – Special Program

Services at your Elementary, Middle and High School –

The Indian Education Program is trying to identify and enroll students who are of **American Indian or Native Alaskan descent**. Are your children an Indian? Part Indian? Do you have any part Indian blood? If you say "yes" to any of these questions, your child qualifies for the Ventura County Indian Education Consortium Program. This program provides: certificated teachers/counselors to work with students of American Indian and Native Alaskan descent in the areas of personal and academic counseling; and special tutoring in all areas of the high school curriculum.

At your child's **elementary level**, the program provides Indian Studies lessons that increase reading skills. The Indian Education Program provides special career development lessons and activities to build positive attitudes for education at the **middle school level**. At the **high school level**, the program provides counseling services, including information about special grants, scholarships and financial assistance for those students who plan to attend college, trade school or technical/vocational school throughout the United States.

If you feel your child is qualified for these services you can obtain a "Student Eligibility Certification" from the Principal's office*. It will take you about two minutes to complete this form, and your child will be served.

This form will enroll your child in this federally funded public school program until high school graduation. If you have any questions regarding these special services, please feel free to contact Dr. Michele Dean at the Ventura County Indian Education Consortium at (805) 641-5000, Ext.1192. (over)

Santa Susana High School

PTSA

Presents a Fundraiser event at

JUNKYARD CAFÉ

Located at 2585 Cochran St.

(At the old Paul's Italian Villa location)

October 13th, 2011

From 6:00 am till 10 pm

Join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner (or all three!) at this very fun place. The food is delicious!

Present this flyer when you order and Junkyard Café will donate 15% of food and beverage receipts to the PTSA

Santa Susana H.S. PTSA Presents

The No Frills Fundraiser!!

- No Catalog selling!
- No Magazine selling!
- No Goofy Sales Pitch!
- No Bugging Your Neighbors, Friends or Relatives!
- No Money Tracking!

We're simply asking for a donation of just \$25.00 per student (or more, if you are inclined) in order to provide all of the programs and services that PTSA makes available to our students throughout the year.

It's easy to donate! Here's how:

Just put your check or cash in an envelope marked PTSA Fundraiser, and return it to school.

(Make checks payable to SSHS PTSA)

Thank you



GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES

Students must adhere to the following General Student Participation Rules as well as the rules for their specific arts area.

The theme for the 2011–2012 PTA Reflections Program is “Diversity Means...” Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.

Student Eligibility Through Local PTAs

Students must participate in the Reflections Program through a local PTA/PTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the state and local PTA/PTSA to determine each student’s eligibility in the Reflections Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

Grade Divisions

Students may enter the Reflections Program in the appropriate division for their grade. The divisions are as follows:

- Primary: **preschool–grade 2**
- Intermediate: **grades 3–5**
- Middle: **grades 6–8**
- Senior: **grades 9–12**

If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, National PTA suggests that they be grouped as follows:

- Primary: **up to age 7**
- Intermediate: **ages 8–10**
- Middle: **ages 11–13**
- Senior: **ages 14+**

It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA to determine the appropriate division if necessary.

Arts Areas

Students may submit works in any of six arts areas:

- Dance Choreography
- Film Production
- Literature
- Musical Composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts

National PTA does not limit the number of entries a student may submit.

Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student’s work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student’s individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. Other individuals may appear in or perform a student’s work, but the work itself—the dance choreography or film production (including screenplay, camerawork, and directing) or musical composition (including written score and any lyrics), etc. — must be the creative product of one student only. (See the specific arts area rules for details.)

Use of copyrighted material (other than recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries) is prohibited.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person’s ideas, writings, or inventions as one’s own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.



PTA Reflections Program Literature

Students must adhere to the General Student Participation Rules as well as the following Literature Rules.

Description

A literature entry may be a work of fiction or nonfiction. Prose, poetry, and drama are all accepted. The entry must relate to the current Reflections Program theme.

Literature entrants are not to borrow from copyrighted material.

Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

Presentation

- Entries must not exceed 2,000 words.
- One original and two copies of the entry are to be submitted.
- Entries may be handwritten or typed.
- Illustrated entries, including “books,” with pictures drawn by the student are acceptable; however, only literary content is judged.
- Collections of poems or short stories are not accepted.
- Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

Dictation and Typing

- Students may have their entries typed by another person as long as the original work or a copy of the original work is attached.
- Students who are physically challenged or students in pre-school, kindergarten or 1st grade may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
- Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work.

Translation

- Students for whom English is not their first language may submit literature entries in their own language. **An interpretive translation in English must accompany the entry.**
- Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the student’s original work.

Format

- Submit Literature entries on 8½ inches by 11 paper.
- Entries should be printed single sided only.
- Number all pages.
- Please do not mount the pages.
- If more than one page is a part of the entry, please clip the pages together. No staples, report covers or folders, please.
- Label each page of the Literature entry on the bottom right corner in **lower case letters** *exactly* as follows:

state abbreviation.arts category.grade.level.student last name.student first name

Example (for typed pages): md.literature.mid.smith.mary.doc

Example (for handwritten pages): md.literature.mid.smith.mary.pdf

Grade levels should be indicated only as pri, int, mid, sen