

Martin PTSA Smoke Signals December 2018



Merry Christmas



Dear Warrior Family-

As the calendar year rushes toward its end, I hope that this finds you warm and happy and looking forward to spending time with people who mean the most to you.

Thank you all for contributing to the AISD Council of PTA's Coat Drive. Your generosity will help Arlington Charities keep people in our community warmer this winter.

I want to acknowledge the volunteers who are working on making Bahama Bash a wonderful reality for our seniors. We'll need help from all the parents of the over 800 Martin seniors to assemble to decorations, food, and prizes students can buy with their Bash Bucks. You can help by visiting the [Bash website](#), buying tamales, providing a donation for the silent auction, or assisting with the car wash or World's Best Chocolate fundraiser. The majority of the decorations are actually re-used throughout the years, so if you're the parent of a freshman, sophomore, or junior, your contribution will end up benefitting your student's class.

Did you miss out on Warrior Treats? It's not too late to buy a Warrior Treat for spring. Visit the [PTSA's website](#) and buy before January 31.

As impossible as it seems, we will be recruiting for PTSA board positions in a few months. There's no better way to know what's going on at Martin than to get involved with PTSA.

All my best-

Laurie James
MHS PTSA President



Counselors' Corner

November/December 2018

MEET YOUR COUNSELORS!

A-Brow:	David Pyatt
Brox-Diw:	Amy Benson
Dixon-Ham:	Jana Lewis
Han-Kim:	Suzanne Bandy
Kin-Mec:	Connie David
Med-Perd:	Jarita Galbreath
Pere-Shall:	Susan Kingen
Shalo-Wals	Jai Davis
Walt-Z & 9 th STEM	Shaw Hatley-Green
AVID:	Edwina Thompson
STEM (10-12):	Sara Stringer

*"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.
Live the life you have imagined." –Henry David Thoreau*



FRESHMEN...THIS IS FOR YOU!!

Your counselors will be very busy throughout the months of November and December meeting with each of you and your parents for your PGP—Personal Graduation Plan—meeting. During your PGP, your counselor will explain the different Foundations Graduation Plans, select the endorsement that you will be working on for the next four years, and choose your classes for next year.

Your freshman year is when you begin to build your high school resume. Every class you take and every grade you make will be documented on your transcript—along with your class rank, GPA, test scores, and any performance acknowledgements you have earned.

Your transcript is one of the deciding factors that colleges use to decide whether or not they'll admit you into their university... So don't blow off that PE class!! That grade still factors into your GPA—and can help it or hurt it!!

Along with good academic skills, colleges want to see what kind of student you are... Did you challenge yourself with rigorous classes? Did you participate in extra-curricular activities? Are you involved in your community? How do you spend your free time? How will YOU contribute to their university?

REMEMBER...The choices you make TODAY will affect the choices that you have TOMORROW.

Choose wisely! 😊

DO YOUR RESEARCH...

It's never too early to start thinking about college! As a 9th grader, you can:

- Visit college campuses.
- Go online and research schools you're interested in attending. Note their tuition, average SAT/ACT scores, average GPA, and requirements for automatic admission.
- Challenge yourself with tough classes like honors/AP.
- Choose electives that fall into your endorsement area, as well as electives to help you learn about your interests.
- Start a folder to keep documentation regarding:
 - Awards
 - Certificates
 - Job shadowing/internship experiences
 - Volunteer work
 - Any other special acknowledgements that will help you STAND OUT on a college application.

STUDY, STUDY, STUDY!

Transitioning from Junior High to High School can be challenging, and many students are finding out that the effort and study skills that they used in Jr. High are not yielding the same results in High School. Here are some tips to help you get started developing good study habits that will carry you into college and beyond:

1. Manage Your Time Wisely--Get used to keeping track of your time in high school and it will pay off for you in college. You might take as few as three or four classes per semester in college, which is only about 15 hours per week actually spent in class. While you may not sit in class for as many hours as you did in high school, your reading assignments in college will be doubled. Managing your free time is as important as managing your "busy" time.

2. Organize!--Keep a weekly or monthly planner or use a journal. If planners aren't your thing, try making "to do" lists, or using your phone calendar to keep track of assignments and important dates and events. Relying on "just remembering" can be difficult when your obligations and assignments start to pile on.

3. Identify How You Learn--Find out what works for you. Are you a flash card girl? Maybe you're a guy who writes down vocabulary words 20 times each to learn them. Experiment with new things, but stick to the tried-and-true study skills that have worked for you in the past.

4. Is There a Better Way to Study?--A lot of people cram for tests by studying into the wee hours the night before. Take an honest look at your study habits. Repeated, short sessions of studying are much more effective than a six-hour cram session the night before a final.

5. Catch Some Zzz's--Don't stay up until 4 a.m. studying for a test! It won't work now and it won't work in college. Sleep has been scientifically documented to be a significant factor on your GPA as well as how well you perform on other tasks.

6. Attend Class--While high school attendance is a strict business, it's good practice for college. Most college classes will only meet once or twice per week, so they will count that much more. Many professors only allow two to three absences for the entire semester. Miss more than that and you're grade sinks – or worse.

7. Ask Questions--Don't be afraid to ask your teachers for help! They aren't there to scare you; they're a valuable resource. Students in your class are another great source of information and support. Be sure to exchange phone numbers and email addresses with them during your first few weeks of class. They will not only help with schoolwork, but some of them may even turn into long-time friends.

8. Make Study Groups--Studying with other students and working on assignments together can be helpful too. You can clarify points you may not understand, and help others by explaining the parts they find hard. Teaching others may even help you grasp a better understanding of the information as well.

9. Hone Those Writing Skills--Learn the fine art of the college essay and also be sure to take notes in class. Writing and note taking are important study skills for high school students transitioning into college. Don't write everything your teacher says, but be sure to highlight the important points. You can also compare notes in with other students to review parts of the lecture you found difficult or may have missed.

10. Study Outside--Don't just study in the library. Choosing multiple places to study will keep your boredom level low and may even help you perform better on tests.

*Learn more at <http://www.campusexplorer.com/college-advice-tips>

PARENTS OF FRESHMEN!!

Counselors met with ninth grade classes during the PSAT testing day to share information on how they need to be prepared **PRIOR to their PGP meeting...**

Students should:

1. Enter their course selections for the 2019-2020 school year into **Career Cruising**.
2. Look over the **Endorsement Guide** and select an Endorsement to pursue.

Students were given a PGP Worksheet, an Accelerate Your Career Magazine, and an Endorsement Guide that will help them prepare for the upcoming PGP meeting and develop a plan for high school and beyond.

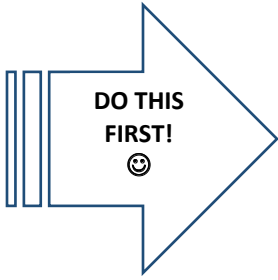
Please remind them to complete their course selections in Career Cruising BEFORE their scheduled PGP! 😊

Name:

ID Number:

Course Selection Worksheet

9th Grade



PRIOR TO YOUR SCHEDULED PGP MEETING, enter your selected courses into Career Cruising:

- ❖ Go to **careercruising.com**
- ❖ Log in to SEARCH
 - Username: **warriors**
 - Password: **arlington**
- ❖ Log in to BUILD AND SAVE YOUR CLASSES
 - Username: YOUR Student ID#
 - Password: First 5 letters of YOUR last name PLUS your ID#
 - Example: benso343455

Please CIRCLE your selections for your 10th grade classes:

1. **ENGLISH:** English 2 (LA1220) or PAP English 2 (LA1320)
2. **MATH:** *Geometry (MA1245) or *PAP Geometry (MA1345) *If currently taking ALGEBRA
**Algebra 2 (MA1230) or **PAP Algebra 2 (MA1320) **If currently taking GEOMETRY
3. **SCIENCE:** Chemistry (SC1250) or PAP Chemistry (SC1350) or *IPC (SC1210) *if low Bio/Alg grades*
4. **SOC. STUDIES:** World History (SS1211) or AP World History (SS1311) or AP Human Geography (SS1312)
5. **FOREIGN LANGUAGE:**
 - a. If you have not started your Foreign Language, choose it now.
(You need two years of the SAME language to graduate!)
 - b. If you are already in a Foreign Language, choose the SECOND LEVEL of that same language.
6. **P.E. OR ELECTIVE:**
 - a. You need ONE credit of a PE to graduate. If you don't have it, choose it now!
 - b. If you already have your PE credit, you may choose any elective to go here. (*consider endorsement)
7. **FINE ARTS OR ELECTIVE:**
 - a. You need ONE credit of a Fine Art to graduate. If you don't have it, choose it now!
 - b. If you already have your Fine Art credit, you may choose any elective to go here. (*consider endorsement)
8. **ELECTIVE CREDIT:** You need SEVEN elective credits to graduate. Make sure you consider your endorsement area when choosing electives! Find descriptions and check prerequisites for courses in the Course Description Handbook: <http://w4.aisd.net/pdf/HSCDHandbook/HSCDHandbook.pdf>

CIRCLE YOUR PROJECTED ENDORSEMENT(S)

Arts and Humanities Business and Industry Public Service STEM
Multi-Disciplinary

PTSA Student Recognition Awards 2nd Six Weeks 2018-19

Each six weeks PTSA selects students nominated by the faculty and staff that have shown these characteristics:

DEDICATION~COOPERATION~MORAL CHARACTER~
POSITIVE ATTITUDE~LEADERSHIP~CITIZENSHIP~
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY~STUDENT GROWTH

We are proud of these students and their accomplishments!

Senior ~~ Lauren D., Dylan D., Samantha P.

Junior ~~ Allissa W., Ethan T., Journey W.

Sophomore ~~

Freshman ~~ Amanda K., Megan J., Caden V., Olivia G., Trinity S.

Thank you MHS faculty and staff for all your nominations!

