

Stephen F. Austin High School

“Tradition Of Excellence Since 1881”
AUSTIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



1715 West Cesar Chavez • Austin, Texas 78703-4699 • (512) 414-2505

March 5, 2023

Hello Maroon Family

I am excited for another week in “Maroon Country” and have listed a few reminders for the upcoming week. The 9th graders in the Academy for Science & Innovation departed March 1 -- for a 4-day learning expedition at the Texas Coast. This opportunity is a launch event for a spring interdisciplinary project involving research skills in English I and science concepts in Biology that look at humanity's impact on the environment and different ecosystems. Students will visit museums, the state aquarium, King Ranch, and explore the coastal lands, grasslands, marine life. etc. They'll also be participating in a college visit of Texas A&M, Corpus Christi -- we're hopeful this helps prepare students for future college visits as they enter 10th and 11th grade.

Our Academy for Global Studies 9th graders will participate in the annual Walk for the Water event on March 8. This is a partnership formed with Gilbert Tuhabonye and the Gazelle Foundation, which is working to raise funds and raise awareness about lack of access to clean water. The students will participate in a water-carrying relay event, trying to transport 5 gallons of water efficiently, something that over 2 billion people in the world do each day. If you'd like to donate funds to help the AGS-9 students support construction in Burundi, reach out to Devon Steiner, the AGS Biology teacher or Jordan Attra, the AGS World Geography teacher.

In the Academy for Classical Studies, students are beginning a Virtues Project, which will include a field experience day in which students focus on their pillar of learning "Live Ethically" -- they'll be volunteering at an animal rescue ranch AND the pillar "Think Logically," as they work together to solve an escape room challenge.

AGS sophomores are working on TGPLAN, which stands for "Think Globally, Problem-solve Locally, Act Neighborly." They are researching a global issue that impacts Austin, and they are currently booking appointments to interview experts for primary sources. If you happen to be an expert in air pollution, food waste, equity in education, mental health, supporting children with terminal illnesses, or homelessness -- these are just a few of the topics students are researching. Reach out to Stacy Webster if you're willing to be interviewed by a 10th grader!

ASI sophomores are launching a Biomimicry research paper for the spring -- teachers are currently brainstorming field experiences that incorporate biomimicry. You can reach out to Stacy Webster if this is a field of expertise for you!

ACS 10th graders are ending the year with a unit on land stewardship and conservation of natural resources. They'll be looking at how nature has impacted artists, writers, philosophers, and designers throughout history, and also how humanity has impacted nature. This will culminate in a learning expedition to Marfa, TX where students visit art galleries, the McDonald Observatory, hike in the Davis Mountains, etc.

Finally, our ADT 10th graders will work this spring on a redesign of a space on the Austin High campus. They'll create plans and prototypes of their design, and winning teams will present to the PTSA to request funding to help support the implementation of their ideas.

Seniors in all academies receive graduation cords honoring the work they have completed at Austin High. Students receiving a graduation distinction from the academy will ALSO receive a double-gold cord and recognition at their Senior Salutes. The Salute ceremonies are a wonderful way to highlight a smaller cohort of students and celebrate them in the weeks leading up to graduation. More details about Salute dates and times will be announced soon.

Fentanyl Awareness

Fentanyl continues to be a serious concern in our and surrounding communities... [Here is a link](#) to resources and webinars for educators, administrators, and parents.

Friendly Student Reminders

- All faculty, staff, and students should have visible badges at all times. Students should not be allowed a bathroom pass without their ID.
- No passes out of class during the first and last 15 minutes of the block.
- Only Seniors are allowed to leave campus for lunch.

Promoting Electives for 23-24 SY

Our amazing counseling team will start visiting classes next week. Teachers will begin promoting elective classes available to students. This will be posted on our website for families to reference when selecting classes for next year and teachers can encourage students to take a look.

STAFFING UPDATE:

- Biomedical (Recommended)

**Hired-New teacher has been hired and given a start date*

**Recommended-A candidate has been recommended to HR*

**In-Progress-Applications are being screened*

NEW OFFICE LOCATION:

The Main Entrance is now located on the west side of campus. The Main Office and Attendance Office are located directly in front of the new west side Main Entrance (Room 148). **The Health Office was moved back to the 2nd floor next to the Admin. Office.** Please call the main line at 512-414-2505 if you have any questions or concerns.

First Floor Main Office

- Visitors Check-in & Check-out
- Student Attendance Sign-in & Sign-out
- Pick up students
- Attendance Specialist Office

Second Floor Administrative Office

- Principal's Office
- Admin. & Management Assistant's Office
- Bookkeeper's Office
- Registrar's Office
- VOE Request & Pick-up
- Substitute Office
- Health Office