



October 7, 2011

CANYON HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Students of the Class of 2013,

I hope that you have had a great start to your year! The junior year of high school is an incredibly important year as you should begin planning for the future. I have been in classrooms discussing some important information for graduation requirements and college preparation. I have included the presentation on my website and will highlight some key points.

Students need 26 credits to graduate and will need 18 credits before school starts next year to be classified as a senior. It is imperative that students are passing all of their classes and earning all of their credits. I encourage you to create an account in our new grade portal, txConnect. Some students have classes that need to be completed using our E2020 credit recovery program. Remember that students can work on these classes from home 24/7, and the more they work the faster they will finish a course. Additionally, students have to be present at school 90% of the time to earn their credits.

Transcripts were passed out last week and reflect rank and GPA. Rank is calculated on the 8.0 scale and is weighted. The rank chart in the course guide illustrates the weight for the different levels of classes and the classes included in calculating rank. I also have a rank chart posted on my website. GPA is calculated on the 4.0 scale and is not weighted. Every course a student takes is calculated into GPA.

Students will take the exit level TAKS test in English, Math, Science and Social Studies this year. They must pass all 4 tests in order to graduate and walk the stage at the graduation ceremony. The junior year is also the time to begin taking the SAT and ACT test. Registration for these tests is done online through the testing website. If a student qualifies for free or reduced lunch, they can obtain a testing fee waiver from Ms. Marchetti in the college and career center.

College admission is based upon a student's rank and SAT/ACT score. The top 10% of the class are automatically admitted into public colleges in Texas. The University of Texas will use the top 8% for automatic admission for the Class of 2013. Students should begin visiting colleges this year. Students receive 2 days as 11th graders and 2 days as seniors to visit college campuses. There is a form in the attendance office that must be completed and stamped by the college in order for the visits to count as an excused absence. Our college and career center also has college representatives present to our students at CHS. Students can come by the center and sign up for any upcoming visits.

The best way to receive important information and deadlines is to sign up for the CHS Hot News and Ms. Marchetti's listserv for the college and career center. I will also keep information posted on my website. The counselor café is in the cafeteria every Tuesday and Thursday during both lunches, where I am available for students with any questions that they may have. Please feel free to set up an appointment with me if you have questions or concerns.

I am so excited and proud of the Class of 2013 as they enter this very important phase of their life!

Sincerely,

Kerri Gamez

Counselor-Class of 2013

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