



**Tucson Unified School District
Sahuaro High School**

545 N. Camino Seco
Tucson, Arizona 85710
520 731-7100
Fax 520-731-7101

June, 2024

Dear Sahuaro Students and Families,

We hope everyone is having a great summer! We are excited for the upcoming 2024-25 school and are looking forward to the potential each student will bring to our campus. We will continue our efforts to push **our expectations for conduct, learning, and performance to the next level.** This year, we will sharpen our focus on Advanced Placement, ACT Aspire, CTE, AIMS Science, and the ACT exams during the spring testing season.

In this letter, you will find essential information to help you prepare for a successful start to the school year. Please remember that school begins on Thursday, August 1.

Zoom Family Welcome Back Meetings

On Wednesday, July 17, we will host welcome back meetings to review this year's goals, upcoming events, and answer questions you may have regarding the opening of the school year. Here is the schedule for that evening:

- 5:00-5:45 pm Freshmen & Sophomores Zoom # 516 954 3229
- 6:00-6:45 pm Juniors & Seniors Zoom # 516 954 3229

Cougar Freshman Orientation

We are looking forward to seeing your Freshman at our Cougar Freshman Orientation Day on July 25th 8-12pm in the McConnell Gym. Our Cougar Link Crew Program will help get your freshman off to a great start to their first year of High School!

WHAT IS COUGAR LINK CREW? Cougar Link Crew is a nationwide program designed to welcome and support 9th graders by connecting them with Cougar Link Leaders, who are positive, responsible, hand-selected 11th and 12th graders. Your student's Cougar Link Leaders will help them feel more comfortable as well as help them achieve success in their first year of high school. Doesn't that sound great? It is!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. Your child will receive an invitation sent via mail to orientation.
2. A day or two before orientation, your child will also receive a phone call from their Cougar Link Crew Leader personally inviting them to orientation day and giving the details of where to be and what time. The Leaders can also answer any questions they may have.
3. Your student is encouraged not to bring backpacks, purses or other like items as the day is quite active;
4. Because the day is active, please make sure that your student wears comfortable clothing that does not restrict movement;
5. Cell phone use is forbidden on this day.

This is a student only function so we encourage you to let your child attend on their own. We look forward to a great orientation day!



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Device Check Out & Student ID

We will issue school devices and student ID cards in the first full week of school. Once issued, students will be expected to wear their ID and bring their charged devices every day to school. To receive their laptops, students will need the following:

- “Student Laptop Loan Authorization” form with parent or guardian signature (enclosed)
- Families must have completed their Online Registration through ParentVue
- Turn in any devices that may previously been checked out to them
- Have their student ID picture taken (without a mask)

Counseling Department Services

Wednesday, July 17, is the target date when families and student will be able to see their tentative schedule in ParentVue & StudentVue. On Tuesday, July 23, Counselors will be available to meet with students and families by appointment. To schedule appointments please call 731-7210, starting Thursday, July 18. Please see the flyer in this packet for more details.

School Meals Program

This year TUSD will continue its status as a Community Eligible Provision (CEP) District. This means we can provide free breakfasts and lunches to all our students. In addition to the standard lunch, other food, snacks, and drinks are also available. Please visit our District’s meal website for information for menus, prices, online, and applications for free or reduced meal application for the upcoming school year. On the website you will see the portal for online payments is now called “LINQ Connect.”

[TUSD Food Services Website](#)

[Free or Reduced Benefits Application](#)

Senior Yearbook Photos

Seniors and families please call Silhouette Photography today to schedule your appointment for your senior yearbook portrait. Seniors must be photographed by end of October to be in our yearbook! Please do not wait, appointments book up fast. If you have not filled out the online contact form, please go to [Silhouette Photo Website](#) and click on Senior contact form. Please call 520-886-1710 today to book your session. [View review session types.](#)

Parking Passes

Students do you drive to school? All students will need to purchase a parking pass. This cost is \$6.00. Parking passes can be purchased online: <https://az-tucson.intouchrecepting.com/>

Senior Reserved Parking & Painting

Senior parking spots are \$15. We use the money for senior events, including senior prom, graduation and the senior gift. The date is August 10th, we will be there from 7-10 AM. We will add another day if needed!

NC for Excessive Absences

Successful completion of in class assignments, taking notes, classroom discussions, and regular attendance are all critical factors for a student’s learning. Students who record 10 or more unexcused absences in a semester for a class will be issued an “NC” (No Credit). Students and families may submit an “Attendance Appeal,” requesting for student’s potential passing grade to be restored. At the end of each semester, a school committee will review the Attendance Appeals. The committee may grant the credit, deny the credit, or grant the credit on the condition of the student



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successfully completing an attendance contract. This policy only applies to the courses the student is receiving a passing grade. This policy does not apply to the classes where the student earned an F.

Tardy Policy: Excessive tardies can be very disruptive and can have a negative impact on students' learning. If a student is tardy more than twice in a given week, they will be assigned lunch detention by their teacher. Any further absences or tardiness in that week may result in further disciplinary action, such as a family conference, a behavior plan, and/or an ISI assignment.

New This Year

One Lunch Bell Schedule: One of the most significant changes coming in the new year is our updated Bell Schedule. We will be adopting a single lunch period for the entire school, with an extended duration of 45 minutes. This adjustment will provide more opportunities for student clubs to hold meetings and host activities for the student body. Additionally, it will enhance the ability of our programs, specialty courses, fine arts, and athletic teams to promote and recruit more effectively during the school day. Lastly, this change is expected to reduce hallway disruptions. Please refer to the packet for our new bell and testing schedule.

Advanced Placement Expectations: We are proud to offer a diverse range of Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP is a program designed by the College Board that allows high school students to engage in college-level coursework and earn college credit before graduation. The main goal of our AP courses is to thoroughly prepare students for the AP Exams scheduled in May.

This year, we are reinstating the requirement that every AP student must take the AP Exam for their respective course. Each exam costs \$98, but we can provide financial assistance to families in need.

Participation in our school's AP program is highly recommended for students aiming to enhance their college admission prospects and qualify for competitive scholarships.

Roaming (2 minutes): Our expectation is that every student reports to their assigned class at the prescribed times. Last year we were able to greatly reduce disruptions in our hallways. This year we will take this policy one step further. After two minutes (reduced from 5 minutes) into each class period, all students seen in the hall without a pass will be directed to the PIC Room by security or other school employees. Students will be assigned immediate interventions by the teacher in the room and will be required to remain in the room for the rest of the period. On the second violation, the student will receive a further intervention assignment and will remain in the room for the remainder of the school day. Any repeat violations will result in further escalation of action, including but not limited to family conferences, behavior plans, and an ISI assignment. Furthermore, students will have access to online coursework to stay on track with classroom learning.

Cell Phones

Many of our teachers have identified that cell phones have become a significant barrier to student engagement during lessons. As a result, cell phones will be a major point of emphasis this year. According to our District's policy, students may possess and use cellular telephones and other electronic signaling devices subject to the limitations of this and other District policies, under the following conditions and guidelines:

1. They are to be kept out of view in a student's backpack, pocket, or a carrying bag;
2. They shall not be turned on or used during instructional time, except as authorized by the teacher;



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Basic classroom cell phone violation are consider Level 2 Offences; therefore would follow the following progressive discipline:

- First Offence: Detention
- Second Offence: ISI (1-2 Days)
- Third Offence: ISI (2-3 Days)
- Fourth Offence: MTSS & Behavior Plan Created
- Fifth Offence: Escalates to Level 3 Offence and subject to out of school suspension.

Families will be contacted with each violation. Please be aware that if defiance or disrespect toward authority is involved in the cell phone violation, the violation will be categorized as a Level 3 Offense. In such cases, the student will be assigned In-School Intervention (ISI) or out-of-school suspension much earlier, depending on the overall circumstances.

Additionally, similar to instances of defiance or disrespect toward authority, cell phone violations may be elevated to a Level 3 Offense if they involve an intention to cause harm to another person. Examples include using telecommunication devices (such as cell phones, pagers) or other technology (gaming systems, iPods, iPads, tablets) for non-instructional purposes, such as posting videos of fights on social media, making audio-visual recordings or taking photographs without prior consent, or posting images of school community members in a manner intended to harm another person.

Again, these policies are designed to continue our efforts to elevate our student expectations next year. We will discuss these policies in more detail in our family Zoom meetings in July.

In This Packet

Also, in this packet, you will find our bell schedules, testing dates, more information about our new Cougar Link Crew Club, information on how to access our online store, a message from our Health Office, directions on how to contact or make an appointment with your counselor, and an event calendar. Please know that most students will take 6 classes per day, Periods 1-6. Period 0 and Period 7 are for extended day and are used for specialty classes.

Please see our website for updates to our event calendar and any new information. Please make sure your contact information and email addresses are up to date with our front office so we can continue to give you important updates throughout the summer and during the school year. I look forward to seeing everyone soon. Enjoy your summer.

Thank you,

Roberto A. Estrella

Roberto A. Estrella, Principal
Elevating expectations for conduct, learning, and performance