



SENIOR PARENT MEETING

2019-2020

Abstract

This is a Mandatory meeting for all graduating senior parents. The meeting covers major events, important dates, specific guidelines / objectives to be met and followed, expectations of parents, expectations of seniors, and additional costs that will arise during the year.

SEM Senior Information Packet
Fall 2019

Join our Remind 101: text @sensemior to 81010 or download the Remind 101 app

Join our Remind 101: text @e4aec to 81010 or download the Remind 101 app

Attendance Policy & College Visit Policy

High School Attendance – DALLAS ISD Policy

College Visits

Students are allowed **two** outside of school sponsored college visits per year. These are excused if a letter from the college or university is returned to campus within 3 days of the student's return to school.

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least **90% of the days the class is offered**. The actual number of days a student must attend in order to receive credit will vary, depending on the number of days in a semester and the schedule of classes in the school. A student who attends fewer than 90% of the days the class is offered cannot receive credit for the class unless the Attendance Review Committee finds that the absences are the result of extenuating circumstances or can be made up during a designated period (i.e. after school or on a Saturday(s)). This policy does not affect a student's right to excused absences to observe religious holy days. If a student is denied credit for a class by the attendance committee, the student may appeal the decision to the principals of their schools at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center.

Excused Temporary Absence/Returning to school (DISD Code of Conduct)

A student may be excused for temporary absence resulting from any cause acceptable to the teacher, principal, or superintendent of the school in which the child is enrolled. To excuse legitimate student absences, the principal shall require written excuses signed by the student's parent or guardian to be submitted to the proper school authorities **no later than three (3) school days after the student returns to school.**

This includes college visits. Students are allotted 2 college visits PER YEAR. Students must bring a signed letter from the college or university stating that they were at a college visit.

After an absence, a student must bring a note signed by the parent or guardian that describes the reason for the absences. The note must be submitted to the proper school authorities **no later than three days after the student returns to school.** Absences for which the student has approved documentation for extenuating circumstances may be considered excused. Student absences may be verified by the principal or appropriate designee to determine the extent of the circumstances.

Unexcused Absences

Absences not eligible to be excused and absences for which a written excuse is not received within three days shall be counted as unexcused absences.

Students may receive an unexcused absence if they don't turn in a written excuses within 3 days of their return to school for one or more of the following reasons:

- Being ill
- Hospitalization
- Funeral
- Doctor/Dentist appointment
- Sent home by school nurse

- Picked up early by parents
- **College visit 2 per year - code L will be used (more than 2 with verification from college campus will only be excused with code E)**

Please note the following:

- Vacations are not excused for any reason
- An excuse note is required ANYTIME the parent picks the student up early for an appointment or because of illness on the following day

Truancy Letters and Court Dates

A student commits truancy if the student is required to attend school under Section 25.085; **Truancy only looks at unexcused absences.** Truancy issues (1) fails to enroll or (2) fails to attend school and doesn't provide an excused note within the 3 day rule. (3) There are 5 levels of truancy letters. One; parent gets a warning call from truancy department. Two and Three; parent gets letter in mail. Parent and student need to inquire about letters ASAP. Four; possible court date letter. Need to make an appointment with assistant principal. Five; student accumulated 10 unexcused days or **parts of days** in a six-month period. Court date is issued.

For truancy violations, a juvenile court always has original jurisdiction under the Family Code. Once jurisdiction is waived to a Justice of the Peace or Municipal court, truancy becomes "failure to attend" under Chapter 45 code of Criminal Procedure. Warrants go out to students in failure to attend the court. Under TECs25.0951, a court is required to dismiss a complaint regarding absences if the school fails to file the complaint within ten school days of the student's tenth absence.

A parent contributes to truancy if the parent fails to require the child to attend school as required by law and the child has absences for the amount of time specified under Section 25.094.

Lunch

Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center is **NOT** an open campus. Students are not permitted to leave school campus during school hours unless escorted and signed out by a parent or with parent permission.

Students are **NOT** permitted to leave for lunch.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in termination of participation in school activities and senior activities included but not limited to graduation exercises and events.

For attendance related questions:

- Attendance Concerns: Ms. Rodriguez (jessicarodriguez1@dallasisd.org)
- For Credit Recovery: Mr. Gonzalez (josegonzalez1@dallasisd.org)
- For Truancy Concerns: Ms. McDonald (YaBrown@dallasisd.org)

College Information

In School College Visits:

SEM does have colleges come to visit during the school day and students are allowed to visit those college representatives. However, students are responsible for any work missed and are encouraged to only attend the presentations of colleges that they are truly interested in.

College Application Deadlines:

Apply Texas (public schools in Texas): Due December 1, 2019 (However, students are encouraged to finish ASAP)

Common App (private schools & schools outside of Texas): December 15, 2019

Early Decision & Early Action (for most schools): November 1, 2019

SEM Specific Deadlines for Fall

Initial Essay Due Date: August 23, 2019 in Google Classroom

Revisions to Essays: August 30, 2019

Recommendation Requests for Early Action & Early Decision: Sept. 1, 2019

Senior ACT: October 1, 2019. Two Saturday practice exams will be offered in September, dates TBA.

Financial Aid Information

FAFSA Information

The application opens OCTOBER 1!

State Deadline

Texas - March 2020, by midnight, Central Time. **If you are a Texas resident, this is your deadline!**

Many states do operate on a first-come, first-served basis until funds run out, so it's *always* in your best interest to submit the FAFSA as soon as it's available on October 1!

College Deadline

Check with the college(s) you are interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline - whether it is the date the college receives your FAFSA, or the date your FAFSA is processed.

Early Action/Early Decision Deadline (private and out-of-state schools) Nov. 1

UT Priority Deadline: Nov. 1; Regular Deadline: Dec. 1

TAMU Regular Deadline: Dec. 1

Recommendations: Complete FAFSA application as soon as possible, Complete all Apply Texas applications by Oct. 15.

Apply EA or ED to at least one school.

Senior Events

Waived Costs

Students get 8 free college applications, plus 2 SAT waivers, 2 ACT waivers, 2 SAT Subject Test Day waivers plus a school day SAT and ACT at no cost to them.

Average cost of college application: \$60

SAT (with Essay): \$54.50

ACT (with Essay): \$56.50

SAT II: \$26 and covers up to three tests on the same day

Estimated Cost of Senior Year

Parking Pass (for school): \$5

Laptop Rental: \$20

Prom: \$90*

Picnic: \$55*

Cap & Gown: \$45.95*

Senior Night: \$20

Panoramic: \$45

SEM Yearbook: \$35

Senior Picture Sitting Fee: \$15

* These figures are based on previous amounts. Students will be notified of any changes in fees.

Estimated Total Cost: \$330.95

Laptop Rentals

Students can rent a laptop from the School of Science & Engineering for \$20. Students and parents must fill out an application that can be picked up at the SEM office.

Senior Parking

All students that drive to school must present proof of insurance, driver's license and pay the \$5 fee for a pass. Cars will be towed this year so students are encouraged to do this ASAP.

Senior Picture

The cap & gown picture date takes place in the FALL semester. There will be a \$15 sitting fee. Students will sign up for a sitting schedule in their English class.

Prom

Prom will be at the Sheraton Dallas on May 15, 2020 pending contract approval.

Sheraton Dallas

400 N. Olive Street

Dallas, TX 75201

Senior Picnic/Assembly

Senior Picnic will be at Southern Cross on May 20, 2020 pending contract approval.

Southern Cross

1800 Dowdy Ferry Rd

Dallas, TX 75217

Fall Senior Parent Payments for Prom & Picnic

Payments for Senior Picnic & Prom are due in January 2020. Information about payments will be communicated during the second week of October.

Senior PSAT

Seniors are not to attend school on October 16, 2019 due to campus PSAT. Students are to take that day to attend a local college for a college visit. This is a school-sponsored activity with parent provided transportation. Please see attached letter.

Senior Tributes

Students will be asked to write a senior tribute thanking important people to be read at graduation. This will be due in April.

Senior Exit Meeting

There will be an exit meeting in the SPRING semester to discuss college entry and graduation procedures

Senior Activities, Finals, and AP Exams

AP Exams will take place from May 4 – May 15, 2020

Senior Finals will take place after AP exams.

Seniors who have conflicting AP exams will have to make arrangements to make up final exams later in the week.

Senior Panoramic

The senior panoramic photo will be taken on April 23, 2020 at Townview. The time and exact location for the panoramic will be communicated in Spring semester. Typical costs are between \$25 - \$45. Students will pay Goldbeck's directly on the day of the photo.

Senior Baccalaureate

This is a PTSA/Booster Club sponsored event at Concord Church. There is no cost to students to attend. Baccalaureate is currently being scheduled. The date and time will be communicated in the Spring semester.

Concord Church

6808 Pastor Bailey Drive Dallas, Texas 75237

Senior Night

Twelfth grade student council will make a final decision about senior night in the FALL semester.

Senior Trips

Senior field trips are during the week of May 18-22. Trip locations and activities will be communicated in the SPRING semester.

Senior Awards Night

There will be a Senior Awards Night where we honor the graduating class and all of their accomplishments. More information will be communicated about this in the Spring.

Jostens Information

Payments for caps & gowns, announcements, invitations must be made directly to Jostens, NOT to SEM. Each graduating senior must have a cap and gown in order to join the graduation procession. All other purchases through Jostens are

optional. Below, you'll find the information for Jostens where payments may be made in person and the information for the sales representative.

Jostens Main Office
4930 Olson Dr #300
Dallas, TX 75227

Jostens will be at SEM in October to take payments for caps & gowns. This is the only date that Jostens will be ON CAMPUS to take orders. The process of paying at Jostens is much more complicated and SEM does not advise parents to wait until later to order caps & gowns. All caps and gowns must be ordered by end of April.

Payments can also be made at Jostens.com for existing orders. Initial orders must be made in person. Go and select "School of Science & Engineering" from the top left hand side of the Jostens.com home page.

Other Events

Please be advised that there are other events, such as, but not limited to, movie nights, dances, Oktoberfest, Fall Fling that students may want to attend that have a fee for entry.

Failure to comply with the rules of Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center, the School of Science and Engineering Student Code of Conduct and Parent Compact, or with Dallas ISD may result in termination or exclusion in school activities, senior activities including but not limited to graduation. Please remember that these are privileges and not rights; all students must comply with all rules in order to be eligible in participation in senior activities.

I understand that compliance with the Dallas Independent School District and SEM rules and guidelines is mandatory. Failure for my child to adhere to the rules and guidelines set forth can result in termination of senior privileges and participation in senior activities.

Student Name (printed): _____ Student Signature: _____

Parent Name (printed); _____ Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please submit this signature page to meeting leadership and / or designated representative before leaving the meeting..
Thank You