Friday Letter: May 1, 2020

Good evening Falcon Families!

With the month of April wrapping up this week, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and the month of May will fly by with online AP testing (May 11-May 22), end of year virtual events, and focusing on celebrating our fantastic Class of 2020. In fact, if you have not already seen them, four new Class of 2020 banners were hung up near the Saratoga-Sunnyvale Rd./Herriman Ave. intersection.

Though we don’t have firm details regarding how we will end the school year during these unpredictable times, our teachers are committed to continue providing the best possible educational experience with the assistance of our outstanding support staff behind the scenes. We all recognize the distance learning experience has been a challenge for students, staff, and their families. My Admin team and I are working with groups of students, parents, and staff to finalize details regarding end of year Senior events, including some form of a graduation on June 4. Next week, I expect to have more clarity.

Speaking of next week, the Bell Schedule Evaluation Committee is reconvening to explore the schedule options for next year when we return to a traditional experience. In addition, we will begin building the 2020-21 Master Schedule. If students would like to make a change to their 2020-2021 course request, they should notify their Guidance Counselor, sooner than later. On Wednesday morning at 9:30am, the LGSUHSD is hosting a Special Board Meeting to review the Measure E Bond and Challenge Success is hosting a webinar for LGSUHSD families at 7pm: “Navigating Remote Learning.”

As always, I hope you and your family are doing well and staying healthy. Please continue to protect yourself and others from contracting this virus by sheltering-in-place, social distancing, and washing your hands. We will be back #TOGather.

Best wishes,

Greg Louie, Principal

PS. If you’re a Star Wars fan like me...
Senior Commit Day Celebration
The Senior Class created an Instagram account to post classmates’ commitment to college, work, and gap years. Even if you don’t have Instagram, you can access the account and submit an entry by direct messaging the account, Facebook messaging Claire Smerdon or any class officer, or by emailing Claire at smec2005@lgsstudent.org. The link is www.instagram.com/shs2020decisions/.

Senior Athlete and Drama Shoutouts
The Spirit Commission is recognizing the seniors in Spring Activities on Instagram. This week was swimming and boys golf. Next week will be badminton, boys tennis, and the Musical. See the posts on TOGASPIRIT on Instagram.

Saratoga’s Got Talent
This year we are trying something new! All of the talent shows, including Saratoga Idol, are now all combined into a single talent show called Saratoga’s Got Talent! Even though we are in quarantine at home, we can still have an amazing show for STUDENTS and STAFF to show off their talents. We encourage both students and staff to sign up and think outside of the box when it comes to these talents. It will be a virtual event and participants will submit videos. There’s more information if you click on the link, so if you’re interested sign up!

Navigating Remote Learning: A Webinar for LGSUHSD Families
Parents: Please save the date NEXT WEEK: Wednesday, May 6 at 7 pm to join a customized webinar from Stanford’s own Challenge Success experts: “Navigating Remote Learning: A Webinar for LGSUHSD Families.”

Many families are concerned about the impact that remote learning will have on their child’s academic journey and what role they should play along the way. Join us for a 30-45-minute webinar with Challenge Success to explore practical tips and guidelines for what families can do to best support student well-being and engagement with learning right now. There will be time for Q&A at the end. Please register at this link:

SHS TV April 26 Episode
Here is the most recent episode of the SHS TV Broadcast for April 26.
Wellness Center Offering

Last opportunity for your student to sign up for a Wellness Group. We come together with other students to learn, practice, and gain tools for building resiliency through this unprecedented time. More importantly, students come together to build community, support, and share what’s important and true for them. Group meets Tuesday afternoons from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. Please email Marina Barnes to sign up.

School Closure Guidance Counselor FAQ
Guidance counselors regularly update an FAQ during this school closure period. Check it out!

AP Testing Updates
College Board is sharing information on your student’s AP exam day experience. Please review the information carefully. If you have questions regarding AP exams, contact Kathy Sheridan (ksheridan@lgsuhsd.org).

- **2020 AP Testing Guide**  This guide provides information about test day:
  - AP Exam e-ticket - which students will receive 2 days before each exam via email
  - Five steps to take before exam day
  - Understanding the test day experience

- **2020 AP Exam Day Checklist**
  - Students should complete this checklist and have it next to them while testing.

- **Explainer Videos:**
  - New Videos to give students quick information on test day experience, how to prepare for test day, exam security, and more.

- **PracticeSubmitting Responses**
  - Starting May 4th, students can access AP 2020 Exam Demo at cb.org/apdemo. It will allow students to practice different ways of submitting their exam responses. If students cannot connect to this demo with their planned testing device, they will not be able to access the real exam on test day.

- **AP Classes and Review Sessions**
  - Review week is May 4th and online AP classes will focus on exam day experience and sample exam questions.

- **AP Chinese, French and Spanish Language Exams** will require an additional free application. AP World Languages Exam App will be available for download from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store the week of May 11th. Students taking these exams must use this app on smartphones or tablets. Visit our site for more details.
- **Information for Music Theory Exam:** Students will need to print out or hand copy the 2020 Music Theory Exam Answer Sheet and gain access to an audio recording app or software before exam day. There’s more information on the [website](#).

- **AP Exam: Cancel & Refund**
  - At this point, to cancel and receive a refund on AP exams, simply do not take the exam. Students will receive an e-ticket allowing them to log into each AP exam. If your student does not login (do not take the exam) during the Primary Test dates of May 11th to May 22nd or the Make Up dates of June 1st to June 5th, SHS will not be billed for that exam. SHS will refund exam fees in mid to late June.

**Parenting During the Pandemic (For Parents): May 5, 12pm-1pm**

CASSY is partnering with Green Ivy Educational Consulting to provide a free presentation for parents on Tuesday, May 5th at 12 PM. The presentation will be 20-25 minutes followed by a Q&A to make sure your specific concerns are addressed. The presenter is Ana Homayoun and you can read more about her below. Please [register ahead of time](#) with the link provided.

Trying to navigate remote learning, parenting and working from home is the impossible task for our times. For nearly two decades, Ana Homayoun has worked with teenagers on executive functioning skills - organizing, planning, prioritizing - and her work focuses on ways to help students complete work and promote overall wellness. She’ll offer strategies for about 20-25 minutes based on her work, and then will open it up to questions from the virtual audience. Registration is required, though only the host will receive registration information.

**Presenter Bio:** Ana Homayoun is a noted teen and millennial expert, author, speaker, and educator. Her work focuses on helping students develop empathy and executive functioning skills in today’s tech and social media world. She is the author of three books: *That Crumpled Paper Was Due Last Week: Helping Disorganized and Distracted Boys Succeed in School and Life* (Perigee, 2010); *The Myth of the Perfect Girl: Helping Our Daughters Find Authentic Success and Happiness in School and Life* (Perigee, 2013); and *Social Media Wellness: Helping Tweens and Teens Thrive in an Unbalanced Digital World* (Corwin, 2017). Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *The Washington Post*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *San Jose Mercury News*, as well as on Fast Company, CNBC, and ABC News, among others, and she is a frequent guest on NPR.

**Tutoring Center Reminder**

AP’s are just around the corner. The Tutoring Center is now offering online AP tutoring in Math and Physics with our community tutor Dr. Tsing Bardin.

Dr Bardin worked at Lockheed for 25 years as research physicist and taught Teacher Training classes in Math, and Physics at San Jose State and the City College of San Francisco. She has a lot of experience working with high school students as she tutored in the Palo Alto and Los Gatos/ Saratoga Districts.

Please email [Marina Barnes](mailto:Marina.Barnes) to sign up for AP tutoring sessions with Dr. Bardin.