

**Tips for High School Parents**  
**From Teachers, Administrators, Parents & Students**

Compiled By and Presented By

The Parent Network

January 2009

- #1 to me is parents knowing the student's schedule and teachers, and know their email addresses.

*Principal*

- Get their student actively involved in helping in the community and keeping accurate documentation of the community service hours the student performs. When the students hit their junior and senior years, other aspects of life get in their way and they don't have the time to perform the community service that scholarship applications require.
- Also as a freshman, have your student go to [www.fastweb.org](http://www.fastweb.org), a website that will send the student different scholarship applications. You don't have to be a senior to receive scholarships!

*Administrator*

- Structured homework time--distraction free.
- Communication bi-weekly with teachers. Have students bring a grade sheet to teachers who communicate with parents whether they have turned in all their homework, are in attendance, and how well they tested.
- Active involvement in school. Participate in athletics, activities, or extracurricular--parents as well as students.

*Principal*

- Join a group, like marching band, where there are opportunities to meet many new people. Encourage your kids to try one or two clubs along the way! Most are informal and are happy to see newcomers.
- Don't be afraid to contact your student's teachers. The teachers want your child to succeed. Even though our kids act like they can handle their lives, they still need help sometimes. If you see a bad grade on a test or assignment, ask the teacher why they think your child is not succeeding.

*Parent*

- Find balance between being involved, and letting your child find their way. Parents need to know what's going on at school, but not try to fight every battle that their child is facing.
- Get their children involved in something besides academics! Whether it's clubs, sports, fine arts programs, etc., they need to be involved in something. That alone can make a huge difference in a student's connection to the high school, which leads to a happier high school experience. Overall, the key word is balance.

*Parent/Counselor*

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- High School is a time to just drop out of your child's life and let them handle school on their own. Communicating with out child's teachers and occasionally meeting face to face has really helped them academically. Teachers respond well to questions and comments.
- Stay on top of your child's academic progress from early on in the semester. Sometimes if you wait until midterm reports it is too late to turn around a grade. E-mail works best because of teachers' schedules.
- If you see your child is falling behind, encourage them to meet with the teacher and try to come up with a solution on their own. If that doesn't work, set up a meeting with the teacher and have your child present at the meeting.
- When my son started high school, we were under the impression that we should just let him go, handle everything on his own and for us to not be involved. This is not true, at least for some kids. While you shouldn't be as heavily involved as in elementary and middle school, parents should be aware of how your child is doing academically. Encourage them to handle the situation on their own, but if they can't, don't hesitate to step in and try to get the situation turned around.

*Parent*

- Attend every open house for information.
- Connect with your child's teachers. Know the best way to communicate with them before you need to. Find out if they have a website and check it weekly, for assignments and to see your child's progress. It's very hard to start monitoring later if you don't do it from the beginning.

*Parent*

- If you foresee your student will need to take summer school, a zero hour class, evening school or an on-line class to get enough credits to graduate (due to other commitments that take student out of school class time.) plan out the four years of high school as soon as possible to ensure graduation requirements are met as seniors
- Incoming freshman can sign up for a few select summer school classes before they begin as Freshman. Registration is in March, and PE fills up quickly, so register on the first day. is probably the first to fill up so make sure you know when registration begins. This will help offset the credit crunch.

*Parent*

- Please note there are 4 classes available to Freshman: Computer Applications I & II, Physical Education I & II, Algebra I & II, and Spanish I & II. See <https://www.tuhisd.k12.az.us/view.php?page=80>

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- Be involved! Even though students are spreading their wings of independence, they still need and want a caring adult to talk to about problems or concerns. Take the time to talk about their day and what is on your teen's mind."

*Educational Specialist*

- Keep in touch with your student's teachers, especially those classes that their son or daughter historically don't do well in.
- Make sure to look at your child's homework; don't just ask if they have done it.
- Go to open house and find out the way a teacher runs their classroom and if they give homework nightly. Then the parents know that the kids will have homework nightly and they can check it nightly.
- High school is the time when some kids start slacking off and they can fall very quickly in terms of grades and learning. Students should look over the information they receive daily and go over notes for comprehension nightly. If kids wait until the night before a test and think they will understand everything in one night they are fooling themselves. Athletes and musicians don't just pick up an instrument or a sport and become good at it by doing once or watching once. They have to do again and again and again. Practice, practice, practice allows for long term learning.

*Teacher*

- Drinking is rampant in HS. Some kids choose not to drink at parties. A lot of kids choose to get drunk. I did not have a lot of solid information to share with my teens, so I searched the web. My favorite source is BACCHUS. <http://www.bacchusgamma.org/alcohol-education.asp> Do NOT wait until your kids are college-aged to look into this group. Your kids will probably like the notion that you are sharing with them ideas that are aimed at college-students.

The founding philosophy of BACCHUS is this: College-aged people want to make their own decisions about everything. BACCHUS gives them support to make good decisions based on accurate information, AND some ideas about how to make good decisions.

*Parent*

- Study for final exams!!!! Since only the semester grade is recorded on your transcript, the outcome of your final exam can easily lower your semester grade significantly. Start studying for finals from day one.
- In order to study for finals, keep good notes, keep up with daily assignments and stay organized. If your child does not have good organizational skills/study skills, make sure you seek help immediately.

*Parent*

- Your kids will learn and experience all and more in high school based on what *you and your kids* contribute during these four years.

*Parent*