

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s) of Seniors:

December 5, 2017

As the end of the first semester nears, the Class of 2018 continues to work hard toward their goal of graduation. In order to keep you fully informed, we will be posting two newsletters prior to graduation on our school website (<http://sbhs.gresham.k12.or.us>). This newsletter is to help ensure that your senior progresses smoothly throughout the year, while the second newsletter in April will contain more detailed information on final senior activities and the graduation ceremony. The newsletters contain useful information, including an updated calendar of events to help you plan accordingly.

This newsletter highlights the following information:

- A review of academic and behavior expectations as well as potential pitfalls that your student may experience as they make their way toward high school completion.
- Information from Teresa Juden, the Student Management secretary and graduation coordinator, about cap and gown orders, diplomas, commencement tickets, and other critical information about senior activities.
- Updates from the counselors and College & Career Center staff with important information about preparing seniors for graduation and the "real" world.

As you review your student's progress (semester grades), please note the comments on your student's grade report as this can provide added insight. More specifically, a number of our seniors fall victim to "*Senioritis*" during the end of their high school careers. It is very easy for them to lose sight of the final goal, as the end of their high school career gets closer. Encourage them to uphold a reputation of hard work and dedication so they can finish strong.

Please encourage your senior to attend all of his/her classes. It is very important that he/she does the daily work and keeps informed about senior activities and deadlines. Seniors should regularly read the daily "Morning Announcement" bulletins for information pertaining to senior activities, scholarships, and deadlines.

*We would like to stress that there is no such thing as a school sanctioned "Senior Skip Day."* The acceptable reasons for excused absences continue to be as stated in the attendance policy:

- 1) Illness
- 2) Family Emergency
- 3) Medical or Dental Appointments
- 4) Matters relating to student's documented disability
- 5) Pre-arranged

The school and parents sponsor a number of activities specifically for seniors. Our goal is to provide *safe* social activities that promote class spirit and closeness. We believe that unauthorized "Skip Days" are a risk to your student's safety and academic progress. Please support our collective efforts and discourage these choices and activities

Hopefully, you will find the contents of this letter helpful and informative. *Please take some time to discuss this information with your student.* As we get closer to your senior student's special day, please help us by communicating to your student the importance of following the Barlow Student Code of Conduct. Through joining us in the process, graduation will be a dignified and appropriate rite of passage for your student.

If I have not covered something or you have questions or concerns about, call and let me know at 503.258.4850 or send an email to [hart29@gresham.k12.or.us](mailto:hart29@gresham.k12.or.us). We are looking forward to working with you and your senior student to make the planned senior activities the best ever. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Regards,

Kelly Hart  
Assistant Principal

# SENIOR NEWSLETTER # 1

## ADMINISTRATION NOTES

Kelly Hart Assistant Principal

I realize that both you and your senior have worked very hard over the past thirteen years. However, there are some potential pitfalls that may keep a senior from graduating that you should be aware of.

- 1. ATTENDANCE:** Maintaining a responsible attendance pattern is often difficult for senior students, especially during their final semester. However, nothing can sink a student's graduation chances faster than missing a class, or classes, on a regular basis. Please monitor your student's attendance by paying special attention to calls you may receive through our automated phone calling system, warning letters, and attendance printouts sent home with grade reports. If you are concerned about your student's attendance, call his/her counselor or the attendance office (503.258.4860) for specific information.
- 2. ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND WRITING REQUIREMENT:** In order to graduate, each senior must meet the essential skills of reading, writing and math. Most seniors have met this requirement by earning a passing score on the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) or by earning a passing score on the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA). If a student did not pass either the OAKS or SBA, they will be required to pass two local performance assessments in each area where they did not receive a passing score. Information on passing scores can be found at [http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/teachlearn/testing/resources/es\\_assessment-options\\_all.pdf](http://www.ode.state.or.us/wma/teachlearn/testing/resources/es_assessment-options_all.pdf)

Sam Barlow High School Counselors have been working diligently to make sure the Class of 2018 has all their graduation requirements completed in a timely manner. Those who have not completed these requirements listed above need to contact Lynn Hollenbeck at 503.258.4881 or email her at [hollenbeck5@gresham.k12.or.us](mailto:hollenbeck5@gresham.k12.or.us) or set an appointment with their counselor as soon as possible.

- 3. PERSONALIZED LEARNING / EXTENDED APPLICATION (CAREER RELATED LEARNING EXPERIENCE) GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:** Your student has been given the opportunity to complete a series of projects with their counselor and while enrolled in Personal Development classes. The goal of these projects is to enhance your student's understanding of potential careers and prepare them for life after high school.

They include:

1. Development of an educational plan and profile. (Personal Development 1 – grade 9)
2. Participate in career-related learning experiences, including:
  - Career Paper / Mock Interview (Personal Development 2 – grade 10)
  - Job Shadow (Personal Development 3 – grade 11)
3. Apply and extend their knowledge in new complex situations related to the student's personal and career interest and post-high school goals through critical thinking, problem solving, or inquiry in real world contexts. (Personal Development 4 – grade 12)

**4. CREDITS:** Your student's credits have been counted and recounted by his/her counselor, but take no chances. Be sure to review your senior's credit situation, and the classes they are forecasted to take next semester, to make sure he/she is on track to graduate. If you have any questions, please call your student's counselor.

**5. BEHAVIOR:** For some unknown reason, some seniors believe that they can see the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel," and school rules do not apply. Nothing could be further from the truth! Few things are more frustrating than to keep a senior from participating in senior activities due to his/her failure to follow school regulations.

I have met with seniors to review behavioral expectations and asked for their cooperation. I also need your cooperation and support at home. When seniors know that parents and the school staff are united in monitoring their progress, success is the usual outcome.

**6. "SENIORITIS":** I have seen this mindset overcome some seniors to the point that they either do not graduate or just barely make it. Please work with us to encourage seniors to "hang in there" and not lose sight of their goal to graduate from SBHS. There is nothing more rewarding than finishing their K-12 education with strength and class.

Again, I hope you find this and the following information useful. Communication is essential and forms a strong partnership between the Barlow staff, parents of seniors, and students resulting in a successful end to a senior year. Thank you for your support, and we look forward to the evening when your student walks across the stage with their diploma in hand!

## **COUNSELING OFFICE**

### **College & CAREER CENTER**

Erin Boelow, Counseling Dept. Chairperson /  
Patty Neuenschwander, College Career Center

- 1. GETTING THAT DIPLOMA:** Any senior in credit trouble needs to contact his/her counselor immediately. By now, it would be rare for the counselor not to have already flagged a credit problem, but occasionally oversights do occur. Credits can be made up through evening high school, or summer school course work (with a later graduation date.)
  
- 2. MILITARY:** For those planning to enter a military branch, an early visit to the recruiter has probably already resulted in a training program choice and a date of departure. If recruiters have not yet been seen, now is the time for interested seniors to contact recruiters for enlisted programs, take the ASVAB test, and compare training opportunities among the Armed Forces. Some training programs fill early, so seniors who want to avoid a long delay in entering the service should see the representatives now. The military reps come to Barlow frequently and are, of course, always available in their own local offices. Seniors can visit Barlow's College & Career Center (in RM 605, in courtyard hall) to obtain more information about military career options and visitation dates. A military visit calendar can also be found on the College Career Center webpage.
  
- 3. COLLEGE SELECTION:** Clarifying the choice of which college to attend can be made easier by listening to the college reps when they visit Barlow and by visiting the campuses. College reps regularly come to Barlow to explain programs, housing, and financial aid. Many schools host open houses for students and parents and will arrange other visits to the campus for the family. The list of colleges planning to visit can be found on the Barlow website under students resources and the College and Career Center link. To stay informed, seniors should listen to the morning announcements and read the daily announcement bulletins. Visits to Barlow's College & Career Center will be very informative and will provide a great deal of help with applications and financial aid. ASPIRE volunteers are regularly in the College & Career Center during. Also, watch for updates on college visits and ASPIRE events on the Sam Barlow web page. **Many College Applications are due February 1 or earlier.** Additional information can be found at the following web sites: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), [www.collegeprowler.com](http://www.collegeprowler.com) and on the student's Naviance account. (<http://connection.naviance.com/sambarlow>)
  
- 4. FINANCIAL AID (FAFSA):** After obtaining a FSA ID (at [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov)), apply for financial aid. The FAFSA opened this year on Oct 1, so if you have not yet completed this, we encourage you to do so now. The FAFSA shows a family's assets and obligations so eligibility for grant funds can be established. State and federal money may be available to eligible families. Parents and students must do the work of filling out the FAFSA forms.  
Note: Some scholarships require results from the FAFSA, so it is important for all seniors to complete the application. Any loans needed will also be generated from completion of the FAFSA.  
In order to be eligible for the Oregon Promise, Community College tuition aid, students must complete the FAFSA by June 1.  
Other sources of information: [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) and [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Also, online worksheets for FAFSA are available. For updates or additional information, visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) or phone 1-800-4-FED-AID.
  
- 5. TESTING:** The two most common standardized tests required for college admissions are the SAT or ACT. Students may take either test, or both, if desired. Colleges will accept either test score.

Students going to community colleges, such as MHCC, are not required to take the SAT; however, it is a good idea to do so in case results are needed later, for scholarship applications, or for future plans like attending a 4-year university. Check with community colleges for their required placement testing times. The placement test for MHCC will be offered at Barlow on April 17 in our computer lab from 2:30-5:30. (No Charge) There will also be a mandatory prep session for students taking the Placement Test, on April 9 after school in the SBHS library.

The **SAT** registration deadlines and test dates remaining are:

The **ACT** registration deadlines and test dates remaining are:

SAT Test Date	Deadline for Registration	ACT Test Date	Deadline for Registration
March 10	February 9	February 10	January 12
May 5	April 6	April 14	March 9
June 2	May 3	June 9	May 4

All testing registration forms and information can be found in the College & Career Center. Other sources of information are: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) (for SAT) and [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) (for ACT). To help insure SAT/ACT scores are recorded on transcripts, include Barlow's School Code: CEEB# 380432.

- SCHOLARSHIPS:** Scholarships continue to be advertised regularly on the SBHS web page ([sbhs.gresham.k12.or.us](http://sbhs.gresham.k12.or.us)) under the Student Resources Tab and the Career Center link and on the scholarship list posted in the College & Career Center. Many local scholarships have deadlines in February through May. Students should also request scholarship information from the schools they are interested in attending. Colleges will often have awards set aside for incoming freshmen. College & Career Center personnel are always looking for additional scholarships to offer our students. For further assistance, contact Patty Neuenschwander in the C&CC, at 503.258.4890.

## STUDENT MANAGEMENT NOTES

By Teresa Juden, Secretary

- COMMENCEMENT:** Sam Barlow High School's 2018 Commencement Exercises will be held at the Memorial Coliseum on Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 p.m. Also, on June 12<sup>th</sup>, graduation practice will be held at the Memorial Coliseum at 11:00 a.m. Final instructions for graduates and details for patrons will be printed in the April issue of the "Senior Newsletter." Seniors should also plan on attending the *Mandatory Senior Class Meeting on April 17*, where they will be informed about all end of the year activities (i.e., banquet, awards assembly, picnic, final clearance procedures, graduation practice, commencement, and the all-night party).
- CAPS & GOWNS:** By now, all seniors should have ordered their caps, gowns and tassels for commencement, as well as any optional items they may want (i.e., announcements, key rings, etc.). The cost for a cap, gown, and tassel can be found at, [jostensportland.com](http://jostensportland.com) and can be contacted by phone at 503.255.7120.  
**Jostens will visit campus during lunch periods on April 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to deliver orders.**

**3. DIPLOMA ORDERS:** Seniors received “Senior Name Information” cards and were asked to print their full legal names on these cards. We order their diplomas according to the information they have provided. If your senior has not filled out the “Senior Name Information” card, he/she should do so with their counselor, as soon as possible.

Seniors were also asked to write down exactly how they want their names announced at commencement. If your senior has not done this, he/she should do so as soon as possible, with Teresa Juden.

Teresa should also be notified if a senior changes his/her plans in regards to attending the graduation ceremony so we can plan for ticket distribution accordingly.

**4. MARCHING ORDER:** Beginning May 14, seniors should see the Registrar to sign up for marching order. Seniors may sign up in pairs. Counselors will choose marching partners for those who sign up individually.

**5. COMMENCEMENT TICKETS:** Distribution of commencement tickets will begin on May 31 and June 1, after seniors have cleared with the bookkeeper. Each senior will receive **10** tickets; we will ask those who do not need all 10 to please return extra tickets to the Student Management office. Parents must request the need for extra tickets, in writing, during the week of May 14-18 to Teresa Juden (*no later than 3:00 pm May 18, No Exceptions*). We want to accommodate everyone, however, a request does not guarantee that you will receive additional tickets. We will begin to distribute the extra tickets, as seniors clear through the bookkeeper. Please note that we will *not* be using the entire arena for seating. We ask that you set realistic limits on the number of guests you invite to commencement.

**6. KEEPING INFORMED:** We would like to re-emphasize the need for your senior to make every effort to keep informed about senior activities. *It is your senior's responsibility* to seek information by reading the "Morning Announcements", by reviewing the newsletters, by attending the senior class meetings, and by taking the time to stop by Student Management/Teresa Juden to ask any questions he/she may have about senior activities. In addition, all information can be found on the Barlow website @ [sbhs.gresham.k12.or.us](http://sbhs.gresham.k12.or.us), Parent Resource tab or the Student Resource tab-Graduation link.

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**SENIOR NEWSLETTER**



**SENIOR NEWSLETTER**  
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**  
**ENCLOSED**  
**CALENDAR OF SENIOR EVENTS**  
**INCLUDED**