Senior Project Information Letter

This year will be an exciting one for the seniors at Santa Susana High School. The senior year is the busiest of their four years in high school. They'll be making plans for college, jobs or other post-secondary experiences as well as working on their senior project. With that in mind, we would like to give you further insights into their interesting and challenging year.

Although the seniors received their Senior Project information in the spring of their junior year, this month seniors will review the Senior Project information and continue the process of deciding on a specific Senior Project topic. The Senior Project must be **student driven** and includes four components: a research paper, fieldwork, a portfolio, and a presentation. The Project is designed to allow students to explore, pursue, grow, communicate and evaluate. They should be able to showcase abilities and effort that will be attributes in the adult workforce. It is intended that it should impact their life in a positive, valuable manner.

Sometimes the topic chosen and subsequent planning are not realistic and can hinder the process. Therefore, we recommend that the following considerations are taken into account:
- Length of time needed to accomplish fieldwork
- Amount of information available for research of the chosen topic
- Overall cost of the project
- Selecting a mentor who will be readily available to guide them throughout the Project, appraise their progress and work, and sign the Logs each month
- Securing the buildings/personnel *before* the Approval Form for the proposed project is submitted (for example, dates, clearance of the MPR, class/teacher available if the senior wants to teach a block of lessons to a class or direct a play at an elementary school)

It is important to think through the entire project from the very beginning. Once the Senior Project is approved, the Senior must complete it as stated from the beginning.

Senior Project Time line:

October 12, 2012
- Senior Project Approval Contract
- Intergrity Commitment Form
- Mentor Commitment Form

October 30, 2012
- Senior Project Approval Contract Revision – *if approval was pending*

December 11, 2012
- Research Paper due

March 1, 2013
- Portfolio Due

March 7, 2013
- Technology Accommodations Sheet Due

March 21, 2013
- Senior Project Panel Presentation

We know that if the student plans her/his Senior Project well, s/he will find it enjoyable and interesting. Each person will be spending many hours doing the required research and fieldwork. It is crucial that s/he finds it engaging and satisfying.

Thank you for your encouragement and involvement this year.