



# SANTA SUSANA HIGH SCHOOL

## SENIOR NEWSLETTER

### Class of 2016



February 2016

Congratulations on approaching the successful completion of your time at Santa Susana High School. We hope that the last part of your senior year will be a memorable one. The purpose of this letter is to give seniors and senior parents information about upcoming senior activities and to help you prepare for the graduation ceremony in June.

Reminder: The ASB Student Store  
and the Library accept only

### CASH AND CREDIT CARDS ONLY

from Seniors and families for all transactions.



### CAPS & GOWNS

All graduates must wear a Santa Susana cap and gown as well as a SSHS 2016 stole in order to participate in the commencement ceremony. All seniors should have already ordered their caps, gowns, and stoles for the commencement ceremony. However, there's still time if you need to order one. Please call Jostens directly at (805) 987-4147 for pricing information and to place your order. Only pre-approved SSHS honor chords will be permitted during the ceremony. No other accoutrements are permitted during the SSHS commencement ceremony.

### COMMENCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Personalized graduation announcements purchased last winter were distributed during the first week of March by Josten's. If you did not pick yours up at that time, they can be picked up in the main office, provided that there is no balance due. If you have not ordered announcements, but would like some, please order directly from Josten's at [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com).

### SENIOR GRADUATION CONTRACTS

All seniors MUST turn in their Senior Graduation Contracts in order to participate in any school-sponsored senior events, including but not limited to: Prom, Senior Breakfast, Grad Nite, Senior Picnic, and the SSHS Class of 2016 Commencement Ceremony.

**Seniors suspended in the spring semester may not be able to participate in graduation.**

### SENIOR CLEARANCE

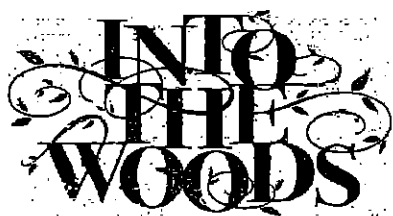


The Senior Clearance Process is described in the letter mailed home to all senior families at the beginning of March. Seniors who receive a "D" or an "F" on their ten week progress report on March 21<sup>st</sup> will receive *Notification A*. *Notification B* will be mailed home to those students who fall into the D and F range in Aeries gradebooks on May 4<sup>th</sup> (note: there will be no progress report posted). Students who receive either letter will be required to receive a senior clearance form from their teacher starting on May 18<sup>th</sup> and return this form to the SSHS counseling office by no later than 3:00pm on May 25<sup>th</sup>. If you are currently doing credit remediation at Simi Valley Adult Ed or through an on-line provider, all final grades must be submitted no later than 3:00pm on May 25<sup>th</sup> to the registrar in the SSHS counseling office.

### SENIOR SPEAKER FOR COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



Do you want to give a speech to your graduating class and families at graduation? Seniors who are interested in giving a speech at the commencement ceremony should submit their speeches to Mrs. Hypes in the main office by 3pm on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. Speeches must be no longer than 3 minutes in duration and should reflect on the student's experiences at Santa Susana High School. Speakers will be chosen by a committee of teachers and administrators.



## *Into The Woods Senior Prom*

*Saturday, April 16th*

*6:30pm – 10:30pm*

*Sportsman's Lodge  
12833 Ventura Boulevard  
Studio City, CA 91604*

Join us for a magical night in the woods! Prom bids are on sale now in the ASB Student Store. We accept cash or credit cards only (no personal checks). You can also visit our webstore on the SSHS website to purchase Prom bids online. **The last day to buy prom bids will be 3:30pm on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, or until sold out, as space is limited.**

**\*\*Seniors not on track for graduation will need to be cleared by their Counselor before purchasing a prom bid. \*\***

All seniors must fill out a permission slip form and obtain necessary signatures before coming to the ASB Office to purchase their bids. If purchasing bids from the online SSHS web store, a permission slip form still needs to be downloaded and brought to the ASB by 3:30pm on Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. The online transaction will not be considered "complete" until the signed form has been turned in to the ASB Student Store.

The price for prom bids is \$100 per person w/ASB and \$110 per person without ASB. The ASB discount only applies to individual Santa Susana students who have the ASB sticker. The ASB discount will not be applied to guests who do not have ASB stickers. The cost of the bid includes the ballroom, decorations, dinner, DJ, security, dessert bar, water, and soft drinks throughout the night.

Santa Susana seniors are welcome to invite SSHS underclassmen, outside guests from other high schools, or guests who are under 21 yrs of age. Students bringing an outside guest must get signatures of the guest's parent and school before purchasing their bids.

Professional prom photos will be available for purchase from O'Connor Brothers Photography. Photo package prices are available on order forms in the ASB Student Store.

Prom picture-taking will begin at 6:30pm at the venue. Dinner will be served at approximately 7:30pm and dessert at 9:00pm. The King and Queen will be crowned at 9:45pm. Dancing will end at 10:30pm.

All SSHS students and guests must have their school ID cards or other form of photo ID in order to be admitted to the dance. Entry to the prom will not be permitted after 8:30pm. Also, once students leave the prom, readmission will not be permitted.

### **IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ**

It is expected that all Santa Susana High School students and prom guests follow all SSHS school rules and administrator instructions while present at the prom.

All students are also reminded that the Simi Valley Unified School District has a policy that does **NOT** allow students to have any alcoholic beverages, tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapor pens or chemical substances in their possession or to have consumed them prior to or during any school activity, which includes the Prom. This rule also applies to all automobiles in which the student is a driver or a passenger. If there are any violations, the Simi Valley Unified School District's drug/alcohol policy will be strictly enforced. Any student caught in any violation of school policy will be turned over to his/her parents or to the police. The ability to participate in the SSHS Class of 2016 Commencement Ceremony or any other related senior class activities may also be revoked if school policies are violated.



## **SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT**

**Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm  
in the SSHS Performing Arts Center**

Students who have made outstanding achievements during their time at Santa Susana High School, as well as those who have earned scholarships, will be recognized at our Senior Awards Night. This includes recognition for all department certifications and honors. Students who are receiving awards will receive an invitation to this event. Students must RSVP and must be in attendance in order to be recognized during the event. Seating is limited, so please arrive early.

**REQUIRED**

## **COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL**

**Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm  
in the SSHS Performing Arts Center**

**EVERY PARTICIPATING SENIOR MUST  
ATTEND THE ENTIRE REHEARSAL IN  
ORDER TO WALK IN THE CEREMONY.**

The commencement rehearsal will begin at 1:00 pm in the PAC, and all seniors must be seated by that time in their assigned seat. Seats will be assigned in TAP during the week prior. ID cards will be scanned at the door and names will be read at the end of the rehearsal. Students not in attendance for the duration of the rehearsal will be removed from the ceremony PowerPoint, not permitted to take part in the graduation, will not receive tickets to the ceremony, and will not be granted entry to the ceremony. The rehearsal is expected to last until 3:30pm.

**REQUIRED**

**ADMISSION TO THE  
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY  
IS BY TICKET ONLY.**

## **CAP AND GOWN DISTRIBUTION**



**Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup>  
12:00pm - 12:40pm in the MPR**

Caps & gowns will be distributed in the MPR beginning at 12:00pm. You will need your SSHS ID or other photo ID to pick up your cap and gown. You must pick up your cap and gown prior to the commencement rehearsal!

**Students who are not graduating or who owe things to the ASB Store or Library will not be permitted to pick up their cap and gown until these things are resolved.**

Note: The appearance of the caps and gowns cannot be altered (no writing, bedazzling, etc.). Otherwise, you cannot participate in the ceremony.

## **COMMENCEMENT TICKETS**



All graduating seniors will receive tickets during the commencement rehearsal on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, provided that they have not owe things to the library or ASB Student Store. **Each graduate will receive a total of 5 complimentary tickets.** Additional tickets can be purchased for \$5.00 each - cash only - in the ASB Student Store following the commencement rehearsal.

**Graduating seniors will not need a ticket to enter the commencement ceremony. Everyone else attending the ceremony will need his/her own ticket. This includes infants. No pets or balloons are allowed.**

## **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**



**Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00pm  
in the outdoor amphitheater**

Gates open at 7:00pm and seating is available on a first come, first served basis. Seats cannot be "saved" for people who are not present. Coolers, outside food, balloons, beverages, and bags (other than camera bags) are not permitted. The ceremony will last about 1 ½ hours and we discourage bringing young children. Strollers will be allowed only on outside aisles.



### HANDICAP SEATING

A limited number of handicap and companion seats will be available on cement for guests with limited mobility. These seats are available on a first come, first served basis. The remainder of the ceremony seating will be located on the grass lawn, and is not accessible with wheelchairs or walkers.

A limited number of handicap parking spots will be offered in the SSHS front lot off of Cochran Street. These are available on a first come, first served basis and a handicap placard is required for entry.



### COMMENCEMENT PARKING

We strongly encourage carpooling to the commencement ceremony, as parking at Santa Susana High School is very limited. Parking for seniors and families will be available in the **lower parking lot** off of Sequoia Avenue. Parking is also available on nearby public streets. However, please read posted street signs.

The SSHS front lot, of Cochran will be available only for staff parking and handicap parking.



### GRADUATION PICTURES

Still photographs of each graduate receiving his/her diploma will be taken by O'Connor Brothers Photography and will be available for purchase. Order forms will be available in May at the SSHS front desk and on the SSHS website.



### GRADUATION VIDEOS

A graduation video documenting the entire ceremony will also be available for purchase. Order information will be available in May at the SSHS front desk and on the SSHS website.



### SENIOR PICNIC

**Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>  
10:30am - 2:30pm**

Senior Picnic is not your traditional Picnic! In fact, you don't need a basket. Seniors and their class advisors will journey off campus for a day of food and outdoor fun. Your class officers will entertain you with games and competitions. Yearbooks will also be distributed at the picnic to seniors who have purchased them by May 13<sup>th</sup>. Transportation and catered lunch are included in the ticket price. Tickets go on sale May 2<sup>nd</sup> in the ASB Student Store and ticket sales will end on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Ticket prices are \$20 for all seniors. No guests permitted.



### YEARBOOKS

There are still some yearbooks available to be pre-ordered. Yearbook sales will continue until they sell out and they have sold out the past few years! You may pre-order a yearbook for \$100 in the ASB Student Store or on our online webstore on the Santa Susana High School website ([www.santasusana.org](http://www.santasusana.org)). All seniors who pre-order their yearbooks by May 13<sup>th</sup>, will receive them at the Senior Picnic on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The price to purchase a yearbook goes up to \$110 beginning May 21<sup>st</sup>.



### SENIOR BREAKFAST



**Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 6:30am or 8:00am  
in the MPR**

Your senior class is providing FREE breakfast for all seniors! **All SSHS seniors must attend Senior Breakfast and ID cards will be scanned at the door!** There are two breakfast dining choices: one at 6:30am (for students returning from Grad Nite) and another seating at 8:00am.



# **Grad Nite 2016**

## **At Six Flags Magic Mountain**



**Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm**  
**Until Friday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30am**

**TICKETS GO ON SALE IN THE ASB STUDENT STORE STARTING APRIL 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**TICKETS ARE \$100.00 PER PERSON**

Your ticket includes SVUSD bus transportation, Six Flags Magic Mountain Admission, a Grad Night Souvenir, a Hurricane Harbor Return Ticket, an All-You-Can-Eat Meal, and early access to Top Attractions and Rides.

**\*\*Seniors not on track to graduate will need to be cleared by their counselor before purchasing their Grad Nite ticket. \*\***

Grad Nite is for graduating seniors only. No outside guests will be allowed to attend and the park will not be open to the public during Grad Nite. Students must have completed a permission slip prior to purchasing their tickets in the ASB Student Store. We will not reserve tickets and will sell them on a first-come, first-serve basis. Busses will be assigned at the time of ticket purchase. Every student attending grad night must ride the school bus to and from Magic Mountain.

**Important note: Seniors who wish to ride buses together should purchase their tickets at the same time in order to be assigned to the same bus.**

All seniors attending grad night will need to be in front of the school by 7:15pm on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. We will start loading Grad Nite buses at approximately 7:30pm and plan to depart by 7:45pm. Student ID cards or other forms of photo ID are required for entry to the bus.

Santa Susana High School strongly recommends that seniors be dropped off to SSHS and picked up by parents in the morning, so as not to drive home after being awake all night. Overnight parking will not be permitted for students in the front parking lot. Student are permitted to leave their cars in the lower parking lot off of Sequoia Avenue overnight, but they do so at their own risk. Parking lot gates will be closed at approximately 10:30pm and not reopened until 6:30am.

Seniors will go through a preliminary search before loading the buses to make sure their attire is appropriate and that they are not bringing any items that are not allowed at Six Flags Magic Mountain (please read the "Grad Nite Rules" on the next page). We want to make sure that you will not be turned away at the Six Flags Magic Mountain gate. You will receive your ticket to Six Flags Magic Mountain when you get off the bus in Valencia. The buses will leave Magic Mountain around 5:15am on Friday morning and will return to Santa Susana High School around 6:15am, depending on traffic.

**Reminder: All seniors attending grad night are expected to attend the senior breakfast upon their return Friday morning.**

**Any student involved in behavior that violates school rules risks suspension and commencement eligibility to participate**

## **GRAD NITE RULES**

### **(From Six Flags Magic Mountain Officials)**

1. **No Smoking** – Students and chaperones, regardless of age, will not be allowed to smoke inside Magic Mountain. All tobacco products, e-cigarettes, and vapor pens will be discarded.
2. **No Drugs or Alcohol** – Students who are perceived to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, will among other things, be detained and/or cited by local police. All drug and alcohol products will be discarded. This includes over-the-counter medications.
3. **Security Search** – To ensure the safety of our Grad Nite guests, it will be necessary to search all persons and their belongings before entering the park. Any item is subject to search and may be disallowed upon security discretion.
4. **Leaving Early** – No students will be permitted to leave Grad Nite prior to park closing, regardless of their age.
5. **Dress to Impress!** Six Flags recommends nice tops/collared shirts, nice jeans/pants, and comfortable shoes; Six Flags Security has the right to refuse admission to anyone they deem not appropriately dresses for the event.

## **GRAD NITE DRESS CODE**

### **(Things to Leave at Home)**

#### **Applies to Everyone:**

- No T-shirts or crop/tank tops. Gentlemen must wear a collared shirt (polo, button up, flannel shirts, etc.)
- No Shorts of any kind
- No dresses or skirts of any kind.
- No clothing affiliated with a school, sports team, group, or club (letterman jackets, clothing with school logos, Lakers wear, clothing manufacturers' logos, etc.).
- No clothing not in good repair (torn jeans, shirts with holes, etc.).
- No clothing with spikes, sharp studs, chains, etc.
- No revealing clothing (crop/tank tops, bathing suit tops or bottoms, see-through clothing, etc).
- No hats, beanies or bandanas (either worn on the head or hanging from belt loops/pockets, etc)
- No spiked style jewelry
- No shoes with skate wheels.
- No backpacks, briefcases, hip packs, camera bags, tote bags, and oversized purses.
- Purses no larger than 8.5" x 11" are allowed.
- Cameras, cell phones, and pagers are OK if not in a case.
- No weapons, knives, chemical irritants of any kind, or laser pointers.
- No prescription medications (asthma inhalers OK).
- ***No over-the-counter medications.***
- No tobacco products and related materials (cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapor pens, cigars, chewing tobacco, lighters, matches, pipes).
- No alcohol or any controlled substance.
- No aerosol cans or bottles.
- No glass containers (including perfume or drinks).
- No food and beverage (including water bottles and snack items). Snack items include but are not limited to gum, mints, or candy. No candy containers will be allowed. No coolers or food containers are permitted.



Six Flags Magic Mountain rules require that all medications brought by students, both prescription and non-prescription, be collected by school chaperones and will be available at Chaperone Headquarters. Students requiring asthma inhalers and glucose monitors, are permitted to carry those on their person. If you require any medication, you must pick up an authorization form in the SSHS Health Office prior to grad night.

## BEWARE: SENIORITIS



**se-nior-i-tis** - a colloquial term to describe the decreased motivation toward studies displayed by students who are nearing the end of their high school career.

This highly contagious disease sweeps across America like an epidemic among seniors in high school at this time of year. Symptoms may include a laid back attitude, reduced attention to studies, sleeping during class and restlessness. Plans for prom and graduation easily take precedence over academic concerns.

If you've already gotten into college, it doesn't mean grades don't matter anymore. Many schools offer scholarships to students only after reviewing spring semester grades. **Some colleges will withdraw their offer of admission if a student's grades drop spring semester**

Is there a cure for senioritis? Unfortunately, the only real cure for senioritis is graduation. However, you can fight this disease with the following suggestions:

- **Challenge yourself.** Continue to think outside the box and to set new academic goals, such as making an A on that research paper.
- **Stay involved.** If you stay involved in sports or extra-curricular activities, you will more likely remain focused during the end of your senior year.
- **Strive for balance.** The key for you is to avoid burnout. You have your school work, college planning, social activities, family obligations, and part-time jobs -- all demanding your time. Try and keep your life balanced -- Pick and choose your commitments wisely. Start saying "No" more often and you'll probably start freeing up more time for yourself. Do the things that you will enjoy and learn to turn down those things that stress you out.
- **Have fun.** Celebrate your senior year and enjoy these last few months of high school.



## SENIOR FINAL EXAMS

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

Period 2 Final: 8:00am

Period 4 Final: 10:00am

⇒ Students who are not in all senior classes will report to the MPR for their period 2 and 4 final exam.

⇒ This is a regular school day and seniors are expected to attend period 6 after their finals. Seniors are also expected to attend periods 2 and 4, in their entirety, even if there is no final exam that day.

Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

Period 3 Final: 8:00am

Period 5 Final: 10:00am

⇒ Students who are not in all senior classes will report to the MPR for their period 3 and 5 final exam.

⇒ This is a regular school day and seniors are expected to attend period 7 after their finals. Seniors are also expected to attend periods 3 and 5, in their entirety, even if there is no final exam that day.

Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>

Period 6 Final: 8:00am

Period 7 Final: 10:30am

Period 1 Final: 1:30pm

## DIPLOMAS AND TRANSCRIPTS



Graduating seniors can pick up their diplomas approximately 15 minutes following the conclusion of the commencement ceremony in designated rooms on the north side of the 300 building (facing Cochran Street and the counseling office). A photo ID is required to pick up your diploma. The graduate must request the diploma in person. Family members or friends cannot pick up a diploma for the student.

Colleges usually require high school graduates to provide them with official final transcripts by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Transcripts can be requested from the registrar in the counseling office, and require 3-5 days for processing. You must fill out a transcript request form in the counseling office or print one from the counseling website and return it with a stamped and addressed envelope no later than May 20<sup>th</sup> if you wish to have a transcript before September 2016. The counseling office closes for the summer at 12:30pm on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

