

May 2015



CENTRAL VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT - HOME OF THE THUNDER

# Central Valley Academy Parent News

Renee J. Rudd, Principal ♦ Richard J. Keeler, Assistant Principal

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

We are quickly approaching the final weeks of the 2014-15 school year at Central Valley Academy; what an outstanding year!

Parents, please continue to encourage students to:

1. Attend school everyday
2. Attend review classes
3. Complete all homework

Sincerely,

*Ms. Rudd*

### TEST TAKING TIPS FOR PARENTS

*The following tips will provide suggestions for parents on how to approach test taking*

Here are ways parents can help students do their best on tests:

- Make sure your child does all homework and reading assignments. This will help make sure your child is prepared for the test.
- Encourage your child to space out studying and homework assignments to avoid cramming the night before the test
- It's ok if you are anxious about your child's test, but try to stay cool around your child. You don't want to pass your anxiety on to your child.
- Encourage your child to do well, but avoid adding pressure that might stress him/her out. It is important your child stays relaxed for the test.
- Keep a positive attitude about tests.
- Provide a quiet, well-lit area with few distractions to help your child study effectively.
- Mark test days on our calendar so you and your child are both aware of testing dates.
- Make sure your child gets enough sleep the night before the test.
- Make sure your child eats a healthy, balanced breakfast the day of the test. Avoid a big meal that may make him/her groggy. Avoid high-sugar foods that are quickly digested leaving him/her without energy to finish the test.
- Make sure your child gets up early enough to be on time for school.
- Let your child relax for a few hours before bedtime. Studying all night is stressful and research shows that last-minute cramming is not effective.
- Talk with your child about the test to help relieve stress about test taking.
- If your child still struggles over tests, meet with your child's teacher to find ways to help your child.
- Praise/reward your child for working hard to prepare for a test.
- Encourage your child to take steps to do better if the results are not what you had hoped. Better attendance, completing assignments and seeking extra help are good places to start.
- When possible, review the test with your child. Understanding mistakes can help your child improve on the next test.



### Important Phone Numbers:

CVA Main Office: 895-7471

Attendance Office: 574-3111

Guidance Office: 895-7120

Nurse's Office: 894-5000 ext. 55911

CSE Office: 574-3115

Director of Facilities and Athletics: 574-3108

Music Department Office: 894-5000 ext.51408

Transportation Department: 866-2140

## Regents Review

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Regents Review Classes are being offered after school. Regents Review schedules were sent home and are also listed on the school website. All students taking or retaking a Regents exam are encouraged to attend.

## Cell Phones

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Cell phones are not allowed in the school environment. Any cell phone that is on, ringing, out in class, seen or heard will be in violation of the code of conduct. Phones may be stored in lockers, clothing or purses. Phones may be used in the main entrance before and after school. During lunch they may be used in the main entrance, cafeteria, and gym. Consequences for violating the cell phone policy include after school detention, confiscation of phone, and parent notification to pick up the phone after 3 p.m.

## Food and Drinks in School

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A reminder ... No food or drinks (except clear water in a clear container) are allowed in the halls or classrooms. Eating is not allowed in the main entrance or near the Weber Avenue entrance during lunch. All food and drinks should remain in the cafeteria.

## After School Academic Help

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Teachers will be in their rooms from the end of Homebase to 3:20 p.m. to assist students with their academics. Please make sure your child, our student, takes advantage of this opportunity to get professional assistance from our faculty. Over the course of a year, that would mean your child could receive up to 75 extra hours of academic assistance.

## Visitors to the School

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We welcome visitors to Central Valley Academy. If you wish to talk to a teacher and would like an appointment, please contact the teacher directly. If this is not possible, please contact the Guidance Office or the Main Office, and we will set up the appointment.

If you are in the building during the school day between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., while students are present, we ask that you follow Board of Education Policy by signing in and getting a visitor's tag at the Main Entrance. Please return the tag after your visitor meeting.

**Committee on Special Education (CSE) visitors:** The CSE office is now located on the lower level of the building. Visitors may park on Weber Avenue and enter the building at the designated door.

## Library Hours

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The library will be open 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily to accommodate students who want to study, work on research papers, do homework, or need access to a computer. A late bus will be available for students who need transportation home at 4 p.m.

# Attendance Procedures

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## Procedures Governing Absences and Tardiness

1. If you are legally absent, the day you return to school you must bring a written excuse to the Attendance Office signed by your parent or guardian. If you are absent for five days or more, a doctor's certificate is necessary.
2. Anytime you are absent, please be sure your parent calls the attendance office. (574-3111)
3. APPOINTMENTS—Students being excused during school hours must bring their excuses to the attendance office before first period for verification and sign-outs.
4. If any time during the school day a student becomes ill, then the student should report to the nurse's office. At no time should the student leave the building and go home on his/her own.
5. If a student is going to be absent from school, we recommend that the parent or guardian call the attendance office between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. that day. If the call is not received, then the school will contact the parent or guardian.
6. Students are responsible for all work and/or assignments when absent.
7. Students who are absent for any part of the day from school other than a verified appointment may not attend extracurricular activities or functions on the day of the absence as a spectator or participant. This includes interscholastic athletics (practices and games), field trips, dances, concerts, club meetings, play rehearsals or any school-related activities, etc.
8. If you are late from lunch, you will serve a one hour detention that night.
9. If you are late to school, you will serve a one hour detention that night.

## Attendance Policy—concerning course credit

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Based on a normal bell schedule, high school students will be denied credit when:

- ◆ There are 28 absences for a full -year course
- ◆ There are 14 absences for a half -year course

Students who are absent from class due to a school sponsored activity are to arrange with their teachers to make up any work missed in a timely manner as determined by the student's teacher.

## The Dignity for All Students Act

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New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (the Dignity Act) seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.

The Dignity Act was signed into law on September 13, 2010 and took effect on July 1, 2012.

This legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2—Dignity for All Students. The Dignity Act also amended Section 801-a of New York State Education Law regarding instruction in civility, citizenship, and character education by expanding the concepts of tolerance, respect for others and dignity to include: an awareness and sensitivity in the relations of people, including but not limited to, **different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identity, and sexes.** The Dignity Act further amended Section 2801 of the Education Law by requiring Boards of Education to include language addressing The Dignity Act in the codes of conduct. Additionally, under the Dignity Act, schools will be responsible for collecting and reporting data regarding material and incidents of discrimination and harassment.

You should feel safe and able to do your best anytime you are at school. Everyone is different, and no one should feel harassed or threatened because of race, color, weight, national origin (where your family comes from), ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex. Whether you are on school property, on the telephone, or at home on your computer, it is against the law for anyone to use words or actions that make you feel threatened or unsafe in school. And it is against the law for you to do the same to anyone else. The Dignity for All Students Act protects you and helps everyone feel safe and ready to learn at school.

## District Website

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Keep up on important news and events by checking out the Central Valley website at [www.cvalleycsd.org](http://www.cvalleycsd.org).

# Student Dress Code

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As warm weather approaches, we need to be reminded of our student dress code. Based on court cases and appeals to the Commissioner of Education, a school may establish rules for dress. The Student Dress Code will be enforced in a consistent and fair manner. We have a dress code that has been adopted and stated in the Central Valley Academy Student Code of Conduct and is explained below.

## ACCEPTABLE AND APPROPRIATE:

All members of the school community are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate and acceptable, and is not disruptive to the learning and teaching environment. All students are also expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness. A student's dress, grooming and appearance, including hair style/color, jewelry, make-up and nails, shall:

- Be safe, appropriate and not disrupt or interfere with the educational process.
- Recognize that extremely brief garments and see-through garments are not appropriate.
- Ensure that underwear is completely covered by the outer clothing.
- Include footwear at all times. Footwear that is a safety hazard will not be allowed.
- Not include the wearing of hats in the classroom except for a medical or religious purpose.
- Not include items that are vulgar, obscene, libelous or denigrate others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability.
- Not promote and/or endorse the use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs and/or encourage other illegal or violent activities, or depict weapons.

## UNACCEPTABLE AND INAPPROPRIATE:

- Excessively short shorts and skirts
- Tube tops, net tops, halter-tops, spaghetti straps, see-through clothing, and plunging necklines (front or back), A-shirts, or any tank top whose straps are not at least 3 fingers wide
- Bare midriffs (any shirt will need to meet the waistline if the arms are held straight out)
- Exposed underwear
- Any item that by word or picture is vulgar, obscene, and libelous, or offensive to others on account of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, gender, sexual preferences, and/or disability
- Promotes or endorses the use of alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs and /or encourages other illegal or violent activities
- Extreme hair styles/color, jewelry, make-up, and nails
- Coats are not to be worn in the classroom or in the halls during the school day. Temperatures can vary in the building, so students should be prepared with sweatshirts or sweaters to wear when it is cold outside
- Pajamas
- **Reminder on wearing of hats:** Hats are not to be worn in the building and should come off when you enter the building and placed in your backpack/locker, not to be carried from class to class.

## DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

Students who violate the dress code shall be required to modify their appearance by covering or removing the offending item and, if necessary or practical, replacing it with an acceptable item. Any student who refuses to do so shall be subject to discipline, up to and including in-school suspension for the day. Any student who repeatedly fails to comply with the dress code shall be subject to further discipline, up to and including out of school suspension.

# Regents Examination Schedule

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|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| English, Geometry                          | Tuesday..... June 2    |
| U.S. History, Living Environment           | Tuesday..... June 16   |
| Global, Physics, Algebra I                 | Wednesday..... June 17 |
| Integrated Algebra, English                | Thursday..... June 18  |
| Earth Science, Algebra 2/Trig, Geometry    | Friday..... June 19    |
| RCT (Global), RCT (Writing)                | Monday ..... June 22   |
| Chemistry, RCT (Science), RCT (US History) | Tuesday..... June 23   |
| RCT (Reading), RCT (Math)                  | Wednesday..... June 24 |

# Mark Your Calendar - Important Dates to Note

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| National Honor Society Induction (7 p.m. - Aud.)             | Tuesday.....May 5              |
| AP Exam - Calculus AB and Calculus BC                        | Tuesday .....May 5             |
| Ecology Club Trip to HCCC                                    | Wednesday.....May 6            |
| College Fair at HVCC   | Wednesday.....May 6            |
| Senior Honors Assembly (8:15 a.m.)                           | Thursday.....May 7             |
| Writing and Fine Arts Showcase (6-7:30 p.m. - LGI)           | Thursday.....May 7             |
| AP Exam - US History   | Friday .....May 8              |
| AP Exam - Biology  | Monday .....May 11             |
| AP Exam - Physics C: Mechanics Exam                          | Monday .....May 11             |
| AP Exam - Physics C: Elec. & Mag.                            | Monday .....May 11             |
| AP Exam - English Language & Composition                     | Wednesday.....May 13           |
| AP Exam - World History                                      | Thursday.....May 14            |
| Physics Trip to Darien Lake                                  | Friday .....May 15             |
| End of 4 <sup>th</sup> Five Weeks                            | Friday .....May 15             |
| Early Release Day-Grades 9-12 (11:05 a.m.)                   | Friday .....May 15             |
| Eighth Grade Orientation (11:45-12:45 & 1- 2:00 p.m.)        | Friday .....May 15             |
| Senior Awards & Scholarship Selection Meeting (11:10 a.m.)   | Friday .....May 15             |
| NYSSMA Solo Festival @ CVA                                   | Friday-Saturday.....May 15 –16 |
| Junior Prom – Grand March: 4:30 p.m. - Main Gym              | Saturday .....May 16           |
| National Honor Society Trip to Hershey Park                  | Monday .....May 18             |
| Budget Vote (noon-8:00 p.m. - Small Gym)                     | Tuesday .....May 19            |
| Youth & Government Dinner (6 p.m. - Elk's Club)              | Tuesday .....May 19            |
| Youth & Government Day                                       | Wednesday.....May 20           |
| HCMEA Scholarship Auditions (4 p.m. - VMR)                   | Thursday.....May 21            |
| NYC Trip for AP World History Class                          | Friday .....May 22             |
| Varsity Athletic Recognition Night (6 p.m. - Aud.)           | Thursday.....May 28            |
| Cap & Gown Distribution (tentative)                          | Thursday.....May 28            |
| Spring Fling & Lock-In (6 p.m.- 2 a.m.) -                    | Friday .....May 29             |
| Tri M Music Honor Society Recital & Induction (7 p.m. - VMR) | Monday .....June 1             |
| Senior Honors Dinner (6 p.m. - Cafeteria)                    | Tuesday .....June 2            |
| SAT Exams  | Saturday .....June 6           |
| Senior Trip to Six Flags, NJ                                 | Saturday .....June 6           |
| “Evening of Songs and Scenes” (7:00 p.m. - Aud.)             | Tuesday .....June 9            |
| Sr. High Spring Concert & Awards (7:30 p.m. - Aud.)          | Wednesday.....June 10          |
| CVA Shave-a-thon   | Thursday.....June 11           |
| Mott Marathon (3:00 p.m.)                                    | Thursday.....June 11           |
| Junior Awards Assembly (Gr. 9-11) (8:45 a.m.- Aud.)          | Friday .....June 12            |
| Yearbook Distribution (3:00 p.m.)                            | Friday .....June 12            |
| ACT Exams  | Saturday .....June 13          |
| Last Day of Classes  | Monday .....June 15            |
| Senior Awards Night (7:00 p.m. - Auditorium)                 | Monday .....June 15            |
| Regents Exams  | Tuesday .....June 16 thru      |
|  | Wednesday.....June 24          |
| Baccalaureate – Annunciation Church                          | Monday .....June 22            |
| Superintendent’s Conference Day                              | Thursday.....June 25           |
| Graduation Rehearsal (1:00 p.m. - LGI)                       | Friday .....June 26            |
| Graduation (7:00 p.m. – Main Gym)                            | Friday .....June 26            |
| Eighth Grade Orientation-Students & Parents                  | Thursday.....August 27         |



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**CENTRAL VALLEY ACADEMY**

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