

Dear 8th Grade Students and Parents,

As we move into the spring, it is important that we clarify and reinforce our expectations for the remainder of the school year. We are so proud of our Hillview Class of 2019 and recognize that for many of our students, these reminders are unnecessary; however, we don't want to catch anyone unaware and did send a PowerPoint to all parents about the behavioral and academic expectations. Many of you already responded, but for those who haven't had the chance to look over the PowerPoint, the short list of requirements is below. Additionally, this letter provides important information about 8th Grade Promotion.

We want all eighth graders to be in a position to enjoy the fruits of their three years of labor. Eighth graders are our role models; as such, it is important that they maintain a level of behavior and achievement that one would expect of middle school "veterans." We fully expect all students to move happily and constructively through their final trimester at Hillview, to have fun at Great America, to make their families proud at the promotion ceremony, and to boogie the night away at Grad Night after the ceremony.

Behavior & Academic Requirements: In order to earn all three eighth grade privileges (Great America, Promotion Ceremony, and Grad Night) students need to demonstrate positive behavior and academic achievement for the remainder of the year, starting with the onset of Trimester 3, March 11. The criteria for participating in these activities have been developed over the years by students, staff, and administration, and we use them to designate whether or not a student is in good standing to earn full privileges as a Hawk. Requirements for participation include:

**Academic Requirements:**

- 1.5 cumulative GPA for all three trimesters in 8th grade
- No F's less than 50% in any of the four core classes (ELA, SS, Math, Science)

**Behavior Requirements:**

- No suspensions from school from March 18 through the end of the year
- No U's (unsatisfactory marks) in the 3C's grade or CtL grade in the last trimester
- No more than 2 office detentions during the trimester (a Friday School counts as 2)

Students must meet BOTH of the academic requirements, or they will forfeit the opportunity to participate in ALL of the eighth grade privileges - Great America, Promotion Ceremony, and Grad Night. Students whose behavior results in a suspension, more than 2 detentions/1 Friday School, or a "U" grade may forfeit one or all of the events.

Promotion Ceremony and Grad Night Party: The promotion ceremony will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 14 in the Hillview Quad. Gates for saving seats will open at 3:30. Please keep in mind that there are over 300 students in this class and we ask that families save seats in an equitable manner in consideration of all the families in attendance (in other words, refrain from

saving large banks of seats). This will be followed by an opportunity for graduates and guests to mingle, and then the actual "Grad Night" party in the Hillview gymnasium. The doors will open at 7:00 p.m. Grad Night is for graduates only (no guests permitted); it will conclude at 9:30 p.m. sharp. The party is organized and funded by our amazing parents. There will be plenty of food at the party, so parents need not worry about feeding students after the ceremony.

Promotion Attire: Balancing many different sensitivities and perspectives regarding dress code during an occasion such as graduation is tricky. We would like to honor the seriousness of the event while also providing for some student freedom in choosing what to wear. During the ceremony, all of our 8th graders will wear blue graduation gowns provided by Herff Jones. While not as formal as a high school or college graduation that involves a "cap," Hillview's ceremony includes this added element of pomp and circumstance and provides a feeling of uniformity and purpose for this special occasion.

There are two choices for ordering a gown. You can either buy one that you can save for posterity, pass down to siblings, or donate to the school after you leave. OR, Hillview will provide a gown to you that is the same as the other gowns. Gowns may have been used in previous years and may not be the "ideal" fit, but are available to you and will look nice for the occasion.

We currently have enough graduation gowns for everyone, but for families who wish to purchase a gown to keep and not donate back to the school, the website to order and/or purchase your gown will be available beginning now. Please log onto <https://district.mpcsd.org/Hillview>, and scroll down to the "Quick Links" section to find the 8th grade end of year information link. Here, you can purchase your own gown from Herff Jones. Be sure to order or reserve your gown by the end of Saturday night on May 11th.

Grad Night Attire: At Hillview, we have "Dress for Success Norms" to promote the lifelong lesson that what one chooses to wear depends on place, purpose, and message. While the gowns cover the attire for the ceremony, we consider the Grad Night Party a great opportunity for students and parents to practice this lesson in accordance with their own sensitivities and perspectives. Therefore, we allow each student and family the freedom to determine what is "appropriate attire" for the Grad Night Party following the ceremony. We do reserve the right to change our minds about this policy in the future.

While students will not be confined by the dress code, we do recommend an outfit that is fitting of such a celebratory occasion; however, please do not spend exorbitant sums of money on clothing. For girls we recommend a dress, or dress pants and a top. Flat or low-heeled shoes will certainly be more comfortable. For boys, we recommend a minimum of a collared shirt worn tucked in and dress pants and dress shoes. Blazers or suits are certainly appropriate; no tuxedos, please.

Graduation Photos: Hillview provides a professional graduation photo company that will take photos of your student receiving their promotion certificate and holding the certificate next to an American flag. More information regarding how to purchase these photos will be distributed at the Promotion Ceremony. For those wishing to take photos of their student in their graduation attire rather than in a gown, stations with the American flag will be made available following the ceremony.

Great America: The annual 8th Grade Great America trip will take place on Thursday, June 13. After a morning promotion ceremony practice, students will leave Hillview at 10:00 am for Great America by bus, returning at approximately 4 pm. Attached, please find the Great America permission slip (which will also be mailed home), which provides details about the trip and requires a parent signature. The cost for the trip is \$34 per student, cash or check, and scholarships are available. Lunch is not provided at Great America, and outside food and drinks are not allowed in the park. Students should bring money to purchase lunch from park restaurants and vendors. Students with lunch provided through school or those who wish to purchase a sack lunch should follow instructions on the permission slip.

Awards Assembly: The 8th Grade Awards Assembly will be held on Monday evening, June 10 in the PAC, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. During this event, the various academic and elective departments present awards to students who have demonstrated outstanding performance, growth, and commitment. Students will also receive Block H awards, Perfect Attendance awards, and much more. It is our custom to reach out to the parents of students who will receive awards in advance of the assembly. You won't know what recognition your student will receive, but at least you will have the opportunity to show up and celebrate his or her success. Please keep this communication a secret! Students will not learn of their awards until the assembly.

8th Grade BBQ: The annual 8th grade BBQ will be held on Friday, June 7. More information regarding volunteers will be forthcoming.

Library Fines and Missing Materials: Only 8th graders who have paid all fees for library fines, missing books, iPads and iPad-related accessories, etc., will receive their yearbooks and diplomas. We will notify parents and students of all fines due before Wednesday, June 12. We ask that all fines be paid before leaving for Great America on Thursday, June 13.

Report Cards for Eighth Graders: Report cards for all students will be mailed home after the school year concludes.

Questions: If any parents or students have further questions concerning the above-mentioned matters, please feel free to contact the Hillview office.

Sincerely,

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