

Aransas Pass High School

**450 South Avenue A
Aransas Pass, Texas 78336
(361) 758-3248
Fax: (361) 758-3251
Athletics: (361) 758-3951**

**Principal.....Mr. David Patterson
Assistant Principal.....Mr. John Mullenax
Assistant PrincipalMr. Glen Hayes
CounselorMrs Sue Wood
CounselorMrs. Katrina Najera
Athletic Director.....Coach Russell Lee
Secretary to Principal.....Ms. Stacie Villanueva
Secretary to Counselors.....Mrs. Gwen Bowers
Attendance Clerk.....Mrs. Bertha Morales**

Office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Campus staff works 7:45 to 4:15 on Monday thru Friday of each week.

Visitors

All visitors must first report to the front office. Visitors on campus during school hours who have not reported to the office may be considered trespassing on school property and may be subject to arrest and charges being filed in the appropriate court of law.

Assemblies

A student’s conduct in assemblies must meet the same standard as in the classroom. A student who is tardy or who does not follow district rules of conduct during an assembly will be subject to disciplinary action.

Attendance Policy—Please refer to Attendance

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered may receive credit for the class if he or she completes a plan, approved by the principal that allows the student to fulfill the instructional requirements for the class. If a student is involved in a criminal or juvenile court proceeding, the approval of the judge presiding over the case will also be required before the student receives credit for the class. If a student attends less than 75 percent of the days a class is offered or has not completed the plan approved by the principal, then the student will be referred to the attendance review committee to determine whether there are extenuating circumstances for the absences and how the student can regain credit, if appropriate. [See policies at FEC] In determining whether there were extenuating circumstances for the absences, the attendance committee will use the following guidelines:

If a student is denied credit for a class by an attendance committee, the student may appeal the decision to the Board.

Make up assignments or tests shall be made available to students after any absence. Teachers shall inform their students of the time allotted for completing makeup work after an absence; however, the student shall be responsible for finding out about the assignments and for satisfactorily making up the work within the allotted time. The allotted time for making up work will be at least one (1) day per day of excused absence.

A student with three or more days or parts of days in a 4-week period, of absence without proper excuse or 10 days or parts of days in a 6month period without proper excuse, will be turned over to the Attendance Enforcement Officer for truancy. Students may be allowed to attend Saturday School to make-up time missed due to truancy to regain course credit, but Saturday School attendance does not eliminate having to answer to the court for having broken the compulsory attendance laws of the State of Texas.

Personal Illness

When a student's absence is for personal illness and exceeds five (5) consecutive days, the student shall present a statement from a physician or health clinic verifying the illness or other condition requiring the student's extended absence from school. The attendance committee may, if the student has established a questionable pattern of absences, also require a physicians' or clinic's statement of illness after a single day's absence as a condition of classifying the absence as one for which there are extenuating circumstances.

Child Leaving Campus

If a child needs to be excused from class during the instructional day (doctor's appointment, dental appointment, transportation difficulty, etc.), the parent or guardian must sign the child out with the office personnel. Your child will only be released to those people who are designated on the Emergency Data Form. If you have a change of phone number, address or emergency contact phone number, please let the secretary know immediately. It is imperative that we have this information as we may need to reach someone due to illness, accidents, disruptive behavior, etc. You must submit any/all changes in person.

Lost and Found

Aransas Pass High School assumes no responsibility for a student's personal items which are lost or stolen. The student brings personal items to school at his/her own risk.

Attendance for Credit

A student and the student's parent or guardian shall be given written notice when a student's attendance of any class drops below 90 % of the days the class is offered. When a student's attendance drops below 90 % of the days the class is offered, the student, parent, or representative may submit a written petition to the appropriate attendance committee requesting award of credit.

Petitions for credit may be filed at any time the student receives notice, but in any event no later than 30 days after the last day of classes.

The attendance committee may review the records of all students whose attendance drops below 90 % of the days the class is offered whether or not a petition is filed.

Imposing Conditions for Awarding Credit

For absences evaluated by the attendance committee, the committee may impose conditions on the receipt of credit, such as requiring the student to:

1. Complete additional assignments, as specified by the committee;
2. satisfy time-on-task requirements before and/or after school;
3. attend tutorial sessions as scheduled;
4. attend Saturday classes;

5. maintain the attendance standards for the rest of the semester;
6. take an examination to earn credit in accordance with Board Policy EEJA; or
7. attend and meet the requirements of the extended year program.

In all cases, the student must also earn a passing grade in order to receive credit.

Verification of Attendance for Driver License Eligibility

Before completion of a verification of Enrollment and Attendance (VOE) form to be submitted to the Texas Department of Public Safety, the principal or designee shall ensure that the student has met the requirements of Transportation Code 521.204 (3) (A) of this policy.

Attendance Notification

The Aransas Pass High School will notify the parent in writing after the third (3rd) absence in any class during the semester. The Attendance Committee of the Aransas Pass High School will notify parents in writing of students who are not attending tutorial sessions for credit recovery.

Tutorials

Tutorials.....as scheduled by departments

Credit Recovery for Attendance

Reinstatement of loss of credit in any classes due to attendance code violations will be determined only at the end of the semester and/or when payback or other requirements for reinstatement of credit by the attendance committee have been completed.

Drink Machines

Students may purchase from the approved drink / snack selection after school. **Students must not take drinks, candy or any snacks into the gym or classroom areas, without prior approval of principal/assistant principal.**

Cafeteria Services

The district participates in the National School Lunch Program and offers free and reduced-price meals based on a student's financial need. Information can be obtained from Renee Hillis, Coordinator of Food Services, at 758-3466. Breakfast is priced at \$0.75 and lunch is priced at \$1.50.

Career/Technical Education

Career/Technical programs are offered. Please see the counselor for information on these programs. The district will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in any educational and career/technical programs.

Cheating/Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is the use of another person's original ideas or writing as one's own without giving credit to the true author. Plagiarism will be considered cheating and the student will be subject to academic disciplinary action that may include loss of credit for the work in question. Teachers who have reason to believe a student has engaged in cheating or other academic dishonesty will determine the academic penalty to be assessed. Students found to have engaged in academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary penalties as well as academic penalties.

Exam Exemption Policy: To Be Updated Later

Fighting

The high school campus holds to a “zero tolerance” policy in regards to fighting. Fighting will not be tolerated. Consequences for fighting will be OSS and ISS/PURG/DAEP. Legal authorities may be called in the event of any fight and charges may be filed with the court. (See section regarding DAEP) Fighting, as defined by the district, is physical conflict between two (2) or more individuals. A fight has occurred if a student who is attacked strikes back. To avoid penalty, a student under attack should seek to separate himself/herself from the situation and get school personnel or adult help. **Self-defense and violence of fight MAY BE CONSIDERED by the administrator in ASSESSING PENALTIES for fighting.** Any student involved in two fights during the school year will be recommended to DAEP.

Graduation Class Rank

Numeric grade point averages for graduation honors are figured after the end of the fifth 6-weeks for seniors. Graduation class rank is used in determining honored graduates for designations and will not change at the time of final ranking. Graduation class rank is computed by projecting a second semester average. The projected second semester average is obtained by:

- Averaging the fourth and fifth six weeks grade;
- using the average above as the projected sixth six weeks grade; and
- computing a projected second semester average;
- spring semester grade for DC courses will not be averaged in graduation class rank.

The numeric grade point average for graduation class rank is computed using the actual first semester average and the projected second semester average for the senior year and following the final class rank procedure listed in the final class rank procedure.

Prior to the announcement or publication of the preliminary class rank, each senior will receive a printout of his/her academic history. Students and parents/guardians will have five class days to bring any questions regarding their academic history to the attention of the principal and counselor.

Junior High Credits

Credits earned for high school classes prior to promotion to the ninth grade shall count toward total graduation credit and class rank.

Transfer Credit

The high school counselor, in consultation with the principal, will evaluate the transcripts of students transferring into the district.

Class ranking of the senior class allows Aransas Pass High School and the community to recognize the seniors’ academic achievement and community contributions during their high school years. These rankings are used to determine local graduation honors which are recognized prior to and during the commencement ceremonies. This process also allows Aransas Pass High School to meet requirements for identifying the highest ranking graduate for a state scholarship program and identifying the top ten percent of the graduating class for automatic admission to selected universities.

There are two different class rankings used at APHS: final class rank and graduation class rank.

Final Class Rank

Final class rank is computed following graduation ceremonies for all graduates after the sixth six-week grades are completed. Final class rank is the ranking posted on the student's final transcript.

The following procedure shall determine a student's numerical grade point average for class ranking purposes.

1. The actual grade earned in each advanced course will be weighted as described in "Advanced Course Weight" section in this procedure. No other grades shall be weighted.
2. A total of all grades earned in all TEA approved high school courses will be used to figure a class rank. Exceptions to this will be local credit courses, credit by exam without prior instruction, summer school taken at other schools, and correspondence courses.
3. A student's final numeric grade point average is computed by adding the first semester grade points and second semester grade points for each course attempted and dividing by the number of semester courses attempted.
 - This is a cumulative average of all course work entered on the student's transcript with the exception of courses listed in number 2 above.
 - Multiple credit course semester averages are counted the same number of times as credit awarded for that course. For example: Health Science 2= 2 credits. The first and second semester averages for this class will be added twice in the total for the grade point average. The divisor will be increased by four (4) semester courses attempted.
4. Students are ranked numerically beginning with the highest.
5. If the sending school does not have or will not furnish its grading scale, the following conversion will be used:

A+ = 98 B+ = 88 C+ = 79 D+ = 73

A = 95 B = 85 C = 76 D = 71

A- = 92 B- = 82 C- = 74 D- = 70

Advanced Transfer Credits

For class ranking purposes only, a transfer student will be awarded advanced course weight for transfer credits only for courses that appear on the advanced course weight list for APHS. Before awarding the advanced course weight above, school officials will contact the student's sending school(s) to determine if the transferred grade has previously been weighted. Any weighting of the transfer grade will be removed prior to adding the APHS advance course weight when determining class rank.

Advanced courses taken at other schools, including AP classes, which are not on the advanced course weight list will not be awarded advanced course weight.

Graduation Honors

Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Honor Graduates

The valedictorian and salutatorian will be students who have completed the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement High School Programs and have the highest and second highest ranking as determined by the District's graduation class-ranking procedure. To be eligible for valedictorian and salutatorian, a student must have completed the four consecutive semesters immediately preceding graduation at APHS.

An honor graduate will be a student who meets the requirements for the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement Programs and whose numeric average as determined by the District's graduation class ranking

procedure is 90 or higher. To be eligible for honor graduate designation, a student must have completed the two consecutive semesters immediately preceding graduation at APHS.

Torch Awards

The Torch awards are sponsored by the Making a Difference Committee, and the purpose is to recognize the top twenty (20) graduating senior's academic achievement. The top twenty graduating seniors select a teacher that has inspired them over their years in school. Class ranking will be determined by the graduating class rank. Numeric grade point averages for graduation honors are figured after that end of the fifth six weeks for seniors. A student class ranking shall be determined within the graduating class of the school year in which the student completes all requirements for a diploma, regardless of the number of years the student is enrolled in high school. For ranking purposes a school year begins the first day of the school year and ends the last day of summer school.

Top Ten

In keeping with tradition, the ten highest-ranking honor graduates are seated on the dais and participate in the program for the commencement ceremonies.

Ties

Graduation grade point averages shall be carried to three decimal places. Should a tie develop for valedictorian, salutatorian, and /or Top Ten. All those tied will be recognized.

Advanced Course Weight

Aransas Pass High School awards points to semester averages in selected high school classes to encourage students to take academically challenging classes. These rigorous courses help students be better prepared for post-secondary education, training and careers.

Students who complete advanced courses (see list below) will receive advanced course weight for class ranking. The actual semester grade earned in the listed advanced courses will be multiplied by 1.1 points for class ranking purposes only.

Example

Multiplier of 1.1 - this multiplier will attach 7 to 10 points to a passing grade.

Actual semester grade = 70 x 1.1

77 weighted semester average

Actual semester grade = 100 x 1.1

110 weighted semester average

This weighted semester average will not be posted on the student's transcript. Transcript grades and grades that determine pass/fail status will be the actual unweighted grade the student earns.

Classes eligible for advanced course weight:

AP Studio Art Dual Credit English 4

Physics AP US History

Anatomy & Physiology Dual Credit Economics

Pre AP Pre-Calculus Dual Credit Government

AP Calculus Spanish 3

Pre AP Algebra 2 AP Spanish 4

Pre AP Geometry Health Occupations 3

Pre-AP English 1 & 2 Debate 3

AP English 3

PLATO Credit

PLATO credit may be obtained by Aransas Pass High School students for the following purposes: credit Recovery, Credit Protection, or Early Grad Credit Acceleration. PLATO credit is considered “Credit by Exam” and will **NOT** be included in student’s ranking.

PLATO Credit Recovery Procedures

PLATO is a computerized credit recovery system used at the high school to help students who have failed courses needed for graduation earn those credits at their pace. Students must work on their own and are required to be in good attendance to recover credits.

Priority Placement in the Program

- a. Graduation candidates needing credit recovery from previous years of first semester of senior year;
- b. graduation candidates who are still needing TAKS;
- c. students with 2 failed year-long courses requiring 1 PLATO period all year long;
- d. students with 1 or 2 failed semesters (different courses) requiring only 1 semester of PLATO; or
- e. requirements—good work ethic, limited absences, prior conference with PLATO teacher.

Use of PLATO for Original Credit

- a. Extenuating circumstances requiring placement by principal/SWAT committee;
- b. early graduates/Acceleration;
 - must use summer school PLATO or
 - early morning or after school PLATO lab.
- c. senior with non-workable schedule.
 - Must complete same curriculum as regular classroom,
 - May leave program when completed unless needing TAKS support.

Use of PLATO for Credit Recovery

- a. Students can “recover” lost credit due to failing grade or absences.
- b. Recovery assignments will be based on work needed to raise failing grade to passing.
- c. Recovery credits require less work than original credits.
- d. Grades 9-11 students in PLATO for recovery must remain for complete semester. If finished early, students will complete TAKS tutorials.
- e. Approximate time needed: 9 weeks for 0.5 credit (1 semester).

Drug Testing for Student Athletes and All Extra-Curricular Activities

The Aransas Pass Board of Trustees has instituted a program of deterrence as a pro-active approach to a drug free school. This policy began in the 2001-02 school year and will remain in effect for this school year; all students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities in Aransas Pass Middle School and High School are subject to drug testing. It is the belief of the Aransas Pass Board of Trustees that students who use illegal drugs while participating in extra –curricular pose a threat to their own health and safety, as well as to that of other students. This program is academically non-punitive and it is designed to create a safe, drug free environment for students and assist them in getting help when needed. Those individuals interested in receiving more information about this policy will need to contact the Aransas Pass Athletic Director or District Extra-curricular Drug-testing Coordinator.

Club and Organizations

A variety of clubs, organizations and extra-curricular activities are available to students at Aransas Pass High School.

The Superintendent, or his designee, shall review all club constitutions, bylaws, guidelines, membership agreements and other documents signed by the student or parent regarding membership in the club or organization. No club or organization may form without the approval of the Superintendent of Schools.

No student shall be disciplined based on club or organizational membership guidelines for behavior exhibited outside the jurisdiction of the school district.

The Aransas Pass High School does have a Drug/Alcohol policy concerning all participants in all extracurricular activities. Students participating in any extracurricular activity should contact the coach/sponsor of that activity for further information.

Complaint by Students/Parents

Complaints by students or parents about instructional materials, loss of credit on the basis of attendance, removal to alternative education programs, expulsion, or prior review of non-school materials intended for distribution to students are handled through procedures specific to policies in those particular areas. To review relevant policies or obtain further information, see the principal.

A student and/or parent with a complaint regarding possible discrimination in any school program on the basis of sex should contact Dr. Sue Thomas, Superintendent at 758-3466. For a complaint regarding sexual harassment or abuse, see page 9. A complaint or concern regarding the placement of a student with disabilities who is not eligible for special education or about the district's programs and services available to the student should be brought to the Director of Special Education, 758-2024, and/or Dr. Sue Thomas, Superintendent 758-3466. On all other matters, a student or parent who has a complaint should first bring the matter to the appropriate teacher. If the outcome is not satisfactory, a conference with the principal can be requested. If the outcome of the conference with the principal is not satisfactory, a conference with Dr. Sue Thomas, Superintendent or designee can be **requested in writing**. If the outcome of this conference is not satisfactory, the student or parent may appear before the Board of Trustees, in accordance with Board policy.

Conferences

Students and parents may expect teachers to request a conference:

1. if the student is not maintaining passing grades or achieving the expected level of performance (see Report Cards);
2. if the student presents any other problem to the teacher; or
3. in any other case the teacher considers necessary.

Correspondence Courses

A student in grades 9—12 may earn a maximum of 2 units of credit by correspondence. These credits may be applied toward state or local graduation requirements. See counselors for further information.

Counseling

Academic Counseling

Students are encouraged to talk with a school counselor, teachers, and principal in order to learn about the curriculum, course offering, graduation requirements, and differences between graduation programs.

All students in grades 7—12 and their parents will be notified annually about the recommended courses for students preparing to attend college. Students who are interested in attending a college, university, or training school or pursuing some other advanced education should work closely with their counselor so that they take the high school courses to best prepare them for further work. The counselor can also provide information about entrance examinations required by many colleges and universities, as well as information about financial aid and housing. (See Graduation Requirements)

Personal Counseling

The school counselor is available to assist student with a wide range of personal concerns, including such areas as social, family, emotional, academic, or chemical dependency needs. The counselor may also make available information about community resources to address personal concerns. Students who wish to meet with the counselor should contact the counseling office.

Dances-School Sponsored

School sponsored dances will be held for students of APHS. Any guest not enrolled at the APHS must below the age of 19 and have prior approval through the office before the night of the dance. Students will not be allowed to attend a dance if they have received a referral one week prior to the dance. Also, students assigned to ISS, PURG or DAEP may not attend the school sponsored dance.

Disruptions by Students or Others

Disruption of classes or any school activities by a student or others is prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action and /or referral for criminal prosecution. The district may pursue a criminal charge against and/or discipline any person inciting, promoting, or participating in a protest demonstration, riot, sit-in, walk-out, **blocking of entrances**, threatening force, etc.

Dress Code

Aransas Pass I.S.D. adopted a dress code effective 2000-2001. This dress code will remain in effect for this school year. **(Please refer to page 1)** The district prohibits clothing, grooming, or body jewelry (this includes “grills” which are designed to be worn over teeth) that in the principal’s judgment may cause disruption or interference with normal school operations. If it becomes necessary, the principal or delegated school officials will counsel the student. If counseling does not produce the desired results, the principal will take whatever action he/she deems necessary to insure appropriateness, health, safety, and good taste.

Drill—Fire, Tornado, and Other Emergency Drills

Students, teachers, and other district employees will participate in drills of emergency procedures. When the alarm is sounded, students should follow the direction of teachers or fire marshals quickly, quietly, and in an orderly manner.

Emergency Bells:

- Alarm Bell—FIRE.....leave the building
- 1 bell.....halt; stand at attention
- 2 bells.....return to room
- Westminster chime.....evacuate to stadium
- 1 long “screamer” bell.....shelter in place

Electronic Devices-Policy FNCE (LOCAL)

Students shall be prohibited from using any telecommunications device, as defined by law, during the school day, beginning at 7 a.m. until the end of the school day. Unless prior approval has been granted by the principal or designee, all devices shall be powered off. On state testing days, all telecommunications devices shall be powered off and may be collected and returned to the student at the end of the testing session.

Telecommunications devices include, but are not limited to: cellular telephones, handheld computers, paging devices, and the like.

In addition to telecommunications devices, the District shall prohibit electronic devices, including but not limited to, radios, CD players, tape recorders, camcorders, DVD or MP3 players, cameras, gaming devices and the like. These devices shall be prohibited between 7 a.m. until the end of the school day.

Students who violate the established restrictions shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. District employees may confiscate a telecommunications device or other prohibited electronic device used in violation of this policy.

Unless the District releases the telecommunications device to the student at the end of the day, the student's parents shall be notified within two school days after the telecommunications device is confiscated and ten business days prior to disposal of the device. Initial notification shall also be made to the telecommunications company whose name and address appear on the device. Confiscated telecommunications devices may be held by the District for a period of at least 30 days after notification has been made, in accordance with law, but no longer than the end of the school year.

Unless the District releases the electronic device to the student at the end of the day, the student's parents shall be notified within two school days after the electronic device is confiscated and ten business days prior to disposal of the device.

Parents or telecommunications companies may obtain the release of the telecommunications device for a fee of \$15. After the 30-day period has expired, the District may dispose of the telecommunications device.

The confiscated electronic device shall be held by the District for the duration of the school year or until the device is released to the parents.

Once the school year has ended, the District may dispose of confiscated electronic devices. (Policy adopted by the APISD School Board 8/28/2006)

Emergency Medical Treatment

Parents are asked to complete an emergency care form each year that includes a place for parental consent for school officials to obtain medical treatment for the student, as permitted by law. Other information that may be required in case of an emergency should be provided and updated by the parents as necessary.

Extracurricular Activities

A student will be permitted to participate in extracurricular activities subject to the following restrictions:

1. During the first grading period, a student is eligible if he/she was promoted at the end of the previous year, or has accumulated the required number of units toward graduation. See the Athletic Director for further information on promotion;
2. During other grading periods, a student who receives an average grade below 70 in any course or subject, or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three (3) school weeks, with the exception of Advanced Placement, Dual Credit courses, Pre-Calculus and Pre- AP Calculus. The student may participate in practices and scrimmages during the ineligible period. At the end of this three (3) week period, students must have a grade of 70 or higher in ALL classes or meet the standards in his/her

IEP. The suspension and/or regaining of eligibility for extracurricular activities goes into effect seven (7) days AFTER the last day of the grading period; or

3. A student is allowed up to 10 activity related absences from a class during a full year course and 9 absences from a class completed in one (1) semester in order to participate in school related or school-sanctioned activities on or off campus. All UIL activities and other activities approved by the Board are subject to these restrictions. Students assigned to the Discipline Alternative Education Program (DAEP) cannot participate or practice in any extracurricular activities.

Fees

Materials that are part of the basic educational program are provided without charge to a student. A student is expected to provide his or her own supplies of pencils, paper, erasers, and notebooks, and may be required to pay certain other fees or deposits, including:

1. The materials for a class project that the student will keep;
2. membership dues in clubs or student organizations and admission fees to extracurricular activities;
3. security deposits;
4. personal physical education and athletic equipment and apparel;
5. voluntary purchases of pictures, publications, class rings, yearbooks, graduation announcements; etc.
6. voluntary purchase of student accident insurance;
7. musical instrument rental and uniform maintenance, when provided by the district;
8. personal apparel used in extracurricular activities that becomes the property of the student;
9. parking fees and student identification cards;
10. fees for damaged library books and school-owned equipment;
11. fees established by the State Board for driver training courses, if offered;
12. fees for optional courses offered for credit that requires use of facilities not available on district premises;
13. summer school courses offered tuition-free during the regular school year; and/or
14. cost of lost or damaged textbooks, workbooks, handbooks and/or lockers.
15. fees for cell phones

Graduation Requirements

To receive a high school diploma from the district, a student must successfully complete the required number of credits and pass a statewide exit-level examination. Aransas Pass High School offers a basic course of study to meet these requirements. The High School Minimum Course of Study, the Recommended High School Program, and the Distinguished Achievement Program TEA curricula are listed below.

TEA Requirements: High School Minimum Course of Study—(22 credits for Graduation)

English	4.0 credits
Mathematics.....	3.0 credits (at HS campus)
Social Science.....	2.5 credits
Economics/Free Enterprise.....	0.5 credit
Technology Applications.....	1.0 credit
Communication Applications.....	0.5 credit
Laboratory Science.....	2.0 credits
Physical Education.....	1.5 credits
Health.....	0.5 credit

Academic Elective.....	1.0 credit
Electives.....	5.5 credits

Minimum Program: Additional Local Requirements

In addition to the 22 credits required by TEA for graduation in the regular program, the district shall require two (2) local credits, for a total of 24. Additional local credits may be state or local credit classes.

Students entering 9th grade during the 2004-2005 school year will be required to meet the Recommended High School Program requirements for graduation according to TEA rule, unless the student, parent, or guardian and a counselor or administrator agree in writing that the student may graduate under the minimum high school program.

TEA Requirements: Recommended High School Program—(24 Units for Graduation)

English.....	4.0 credits
Mathematics.....	3.0 credits
Social Science.....	3.5 credits
Economics/Free Enterprise.....	0.5 credit
Foreign Language.....	2.0 credits
Fine Arts.....	1.0 credit
Technology Applications.....	1.0 credit
Laboratory Science.....	3.0 credits
Physical Education.....	1.5 credits
Health.....	0.5 credit
Communication Applications.....	0.5 credit

Three and one-half credits from:

- The list of courses approved by the SBOE for Grades 9—12(relating to Essential Knowledge and Skills);
- State-approved innovative courses;
- NJROTC (one to four credits); or
- Driver’s Education (one-half credit). (if offered by th eschool for state credit)

Students entering 9th grade during 2007-08 school year will be required to meet the following Recommended High School Program Requirements for graduation.

TEA Requirements: Recommended HS Program (26 credits for Graduation.

English.....	4.0 credits
Mathematics.....	4.0 credits
Social Science.....	3.5 credits
Economics.....	0.5 credit
Technology Application.....	1.0 credit
Communication Application.....	0.5 credit
Laboratory Science.....	4.0 credits
Physical Education.....	1.5 credits
Health.....	0.5 credit
Fine Arts.....	1.0 credit
Foreign Language.....	2.0 credits
Electives.....	3.5 credits

The Texas Distinguished Achievement Program

The program is based on students completing the 24-credit Recommended High School Program. In addition, students must complete a third credit in a foreign language; all three credits must be in the same foreign language. Within those credits, students must complete advanced measures at the college or professional level that are assessed by outside evaluators. In order to achieve this distinguished recognition, students must complete any combination of four (4) of the advanced measures listed below:

1. Earn a score of three (3) or above on a college board AP Exam or a score of four (4) or above on an IB Exam (each exam can count as one measure);
2. Complete original research or project judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project or conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience;
3. A score on the PSAT that qualifies a student for recognition as a commended scholar or higher; or
4. College academic courses and tech-prep articulated college courses with a grade of 80 or higher.

College Credit Courses

In addition to the Dual-Credit Courses and Advanced Placement Courses offered by the District, Students in grades 9–12 may earn college credit from the following:

Del Mar College 101 Baldwin Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX 78404

Coastal Bend College 3800 Charco Road, Beeville, TX 78102

See Articulated Courses in the APHS Course Catalog.

Early Graduates

An early graduate is a student who has attended school for at least six (6) semesters or their equivalent subsequent to enrollment in ninth grade and who has successfully completed all state and local graduation requirements in less than four (4) full years of high school attendance.

The following requirements shall apply to students who wish to graduate early:

1. A conference with the student, the student's parents/guardians, and the principal shall be recommended before early graduation.
2. An early graduate shall be subject to all UIL and district regulations regarding participation in extracurricular activities that require participation beyond the semester in which graduation is scheduled. Participation may be limited or prohibited.
3. A student who plans to graduate early is eligible for an honor or an election only if he or she is in attendance as a full-time student at the time the honor is awarded or the election is held. Since scholastic honors and awards for senior students are determined at the end of the fifth six-weeks grading period, a student who graduates before this time shall not be eligible for scholastic honors or awards.
4. A student who completes state and local graduation requirements prior to the end of the semester shall be given a letter of completion. The student may participate in graduation exercises at the end of the school year if all arrangements have been made and approved by the principal.

***** Students who qualify for early graduation are eligible to apply for all scholarships *****

Completion of Graduation Requirements

The district shall not issue certificates of completion to students who fail to meet all state and local requirements for graduation, except as listed below.

See EMC (LOCAL) for provisions regarding participation in graduation exercises.

Students with Disabilities

Upon the recommendation of the admission, review, and dismissal committee, a student with disabilities may be permitted to graduate under the provisions of his or her individualized education program (IEP).

A student who receives special education services and has completed four years of high school, but has not met the requirements of his or her IEP, may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance. Even if the student participates in graduation ceremonies to receive the certificate of attendance, he or she may remain enrolled to complete the IEP and earn his or her high school diploma; however, the student will only be allowed to participate in one graduation ceremony.

[See FMH(LEGAL)]

Graduation Exercises

Students shall meet all state and local graduation requirements, including successfully completing the exit-level or end-of-course state tests, to be eligible to participate in graduation activities and ceremonies.

For seniors who are eligible to graduate and are assigned to a DAEP at the time of graduation, the last day of placement in the program will be the last instructional day, and the student will be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and related graduation activities unless other wise specified in the DAEP placement order.

Grading

A grade of 70 on a scale of 100 is the basis for determination to receive credit for a course. Grades are reported to parents on a six weeks basis. Six weeks tests, exams, major assignments, and daily grades will constitute six weeks grades. The semester grades will be determined by weighing the six weeks averages as three-fourths (3/4) and the semester exam as one-fourth (1/4).

In a full year course, a student may fail the first semester of the course, yet receive a full credit for the course, provided a passing grade for the second semester is sufficient enough to have a yearly average of (70) or above. However, a passing grade for the first semester will not bring up a second semester failure regardless of final yearly average. In this case, the student would only receive one-half (1/2) credit for the first semester passing grade.

Grades shall not be lowered for disciplinary reasons. Students shall be allowed to make up all assignments and tests due to absences in accordance with the APHS Attendance Policy.

Grade Classification

Grade classification shall be determined only from units of credit earned at APHS. Credits earned at A.C. Blunt Middle School will count toward credits needed for graduation requirements.

Units of Credit Earned Grade Placement

6.....	10.....	Sophomore
12.....	11.....	Junior
18.....	12.....	Senior

Accelerated Grade Placement

Based on units of credit earned from middle school, summer school, or correspondence courses, students may be eligible for accelerated grade placement following a parent/counselor/administrator conference.

Student Awards and Scholarships

Academic Awards

Students at the high school level shall be recognized for achieving a grade point average that ranks them in the top three (3) percent of the high school or for earning grades that rank them among the top ten (10) students at each of the four high school grade levels: 9, 10, 11, and 12. The students who earn these awards shall be recognized as a group and the rank of a student within the group shall not be disclosed for these purposes, because the award represents one year's average; it does not reflect graduation ranking. For class rank for graduation purposes, see policies at EIC.

Three Percent Award

The Three Percent Award shall be awarded to students whose grade point average is in the top three percent of the entire student body. The award shall be determined by the average of each student's high school semester grades for the year. The weighting given to the more challenging classes, that is, the actual grade multiplied by 1.1 as approved for ranking, shall be included, and all state and local credit courses shall be used. The Three Percent Award will be a blanket, sweater, or other item with an academic letter given the first year a student earns an award; an academic letter is given in subsequent years to attach to the initial award.

Top Ten Award

The Top Ten Award shall be awarded to students whose grade point average ranks them among the top ten (10) students in their grade level (9, 10, 11,12) for the year represented. The award shall be determined by the average of each student's semester grades for that year only. The weighting given to the more challenging classes, that is, the actual grade multiplied by 1.1 as approved for ranking, shall be included and all state and local credit courses shall be used. The Top Ten Award shall be a plaque, a framed document, or another appropriate item.

Procedure

The Three Percent Award and the Top Ten Award shall be awarded in the fall following the year being used for assessment in order to allow all grades from the previous year to be included. The total number of the year-end enrollment shall be the number upon which the three percent shall be based. The grade point average shall be carried to the fourth decimal place. If there is a tie, all students involved in the tie shall be included in the award.

Honor Roll

Aransas Pass High School publishes an Honor Roll each six weeks and an Annual Honor Roll.

- The "straight A" and the "A-B" honor rolls are announced following the end of each six weeks reporting period.
- To be placed on the "straight A" honor roll, a student must maintain an average of ninety (90) or above in every subject.
- To be placed on the "A-B" honor roll, the student must have an eighty (80) or above average and at least one average of ninety (90) or above in every subject.

To be placed on the annual honor roll, the student must have been:

- On each of the six weeks honor rolls, either "straight A" or "AB".
- He/she must not have made below eighty (80) for a term grade in any subject.

National Honor Society

To be eligible for membership the candidate must be classified as a sophomore, junior, or senior designated as eligible according to chapter constitution. Candidates must have been in attendance at Aransas Pass High

School the equivalent of one semester. Candidates must have a cumulative scholastic average of at least 88% (percent) in all subjects, as calculated with the academic rank formula currently used by the district. Candidates shall then be evaluated on the basis of service, leadership, and character by all members of APHS faculty. The election of members to the APHS chapter of the NHS shall be by a majority vote of the faculty council, which consists of five (5) voting faculty members. Induction into NHS will be in the spring semester of the school year.

Instructional Television

The district provides through a contract with Whittle Communications the opportunity for students in grades 9—12 to view a 12 minute educational program, on current events and news items, two minutes of which contain commercial advertising.

Lockers

Lockers are school property and remain under the control and jurisdiction of the school even when assigned to an individual student. The school reserves the right to inspect all lockers. A student has full responsibility for the security of the locker and is responsible for making certain it is locked and that the combination is not available to others. Searches of lockers may be conducted at any time there is reasonable cause to do so whether or not a student is present. Sharing of lockers is NOT permitted. A fee may be assessed for locker damage.

Lost or Stolen Items

Aransas Pass High School is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

Parental Involvement and Responsibilities

Education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership between home and school, a partnership that thrives on communication. The school asks parents to:

- Sign and return to the school the written statement the parent understands and consents to the responsibilities outlined in the Student/Parent Handbook. Parents with questions are encouraged to contact the school at 758-3248;
- Encourage their children to put a high priority on education and to commit themselves to making the most of the educational opportunities the school provides;
- Stay informed on school activities and issues;
- Become a school volunteer, for further information, contact 758- 3248;
- Participate in campus parent organizations. The activities are varied, ranging from band boosters to the campus committee formulating campus performance objectives fostering improved educational opportunities for all students. Parents may wish to visit the school library to review the most recent planning report approved by the Board for addressing student performance issues in the District. In addition, after receipt from TEA, the school will provide all parents a copy of the “school report card” containing a comparison of the school’s performance in relation to the District, the state, and a comparable group of schools, for further information, contact 758-3466;
- Monitor their children’s progress and contact teachers as needed. Conferences may be arranged. (See Conferences)

Parties and Social Events

The rules of good conduct and grooming will be observed at school social events held outside the regular school day. Guests are expected to observe the same rules as students attending the event, and the person inviting the

guest will share responsibility for the conduct of the guest. A student attending a party or social event may be asked to sign out when leaving before the end of the party; anyone leaving before the official end of the party will not be readmitted.

Physical Examinations

Physical examinations are required for UIL participation in athletics. All students participating in organized athletics will be required to have an annual physical examination before they can participate. (State law)

Posters

Signs and posters that a student wishes to display must first be approved by the administration. Posters displayed without authorization will be removed. Any student who posts printed material without prior approval will be subject to disciplinary action.

Protections of Student Rights

The school will notify parents of the right to inspect all instructional materials to be used in connection with a survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of a federally funded program. Notice will be sent home before such a survey, analysis, or evaluation is administered, and parent consent (or student consent if 18 or older) will be requested if information regarding any of the following is part of the survey, analysis or evaluation:

- Political affiliations;
 - Mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or family;
 - Sexual behavior and attitudes;
 - Illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior;
 - Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student or the student's family has close family relationship;
 - Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- or
- Income other than as required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

Release of Students from School

A student will not be released from school at times other than regular dismissal hours except with the principal's permission. Students wishing to leave campus during the school day must present a note from parent or arrange parent contact by telephone before the student will be allowed to leave. The teacher will determine that permission has been granted before allowing the student to leave. Students who are 18 years of age or older may request permission to leave on their own behalf.

Students Leaving Class / Campus

Students must remain on campus upon being dropped off by bus or parents. Students leaving unauthorized are subject to discipline by administration. No student is allowed to leave school unless signed out at the office by their parent or designee on Emergency Form. Students are not to leave the classroom without the teacher's permission and must have a hall pass.

Closed Campus

No student shall be permitted to leave campus during lunch except as approved by the principal, on a case-by-case basis in response to a parent's written request. An exception shall be made at the high school level for those students who have a written work pass from the Career and Technology Coordinator. Students who leave

campus during lunch or at any other time without administrative approval shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct.

Report Cards

Written reports of student grades and absences are issued to parents at least once every six weeks. At the end of the first three weeks of a grading period, parents are notified if the student's grade average is near or below (70) or below the expected level of performance. If a student receives a six weeks grade of less than (70) in any class or subject, the parents are requested to schedule a conference with the teacher of that class or subject. The report card will state whether tutorials are required or only recommended for a student who receives a grade below (70) in a class or subject.

Safety/Accident Insurance

Student safety on campus or at school-related events is a high priority of the district. With safety in mind, the district has implemented policies and committed resources. However, the district can address only part of the challenge. The essential remaining part is the cooperation of students, including:

- Avoiding conduct that is likely to put the student or other students at risk;
- Following the Code of Conduct and any additional rules for behavior and safety set by the principal or teacher;
- Remaining alert to and promptly reporting safety hazards, such as intruders on campus;
- Knowing emergency evacuation routes and signals; and immediately following the instructions of teachers, bus drivers, and other District employees who are seeing to the welfare of students.

Parents can assist by keeping emergency care information up to date (name of doctor, emergency phone numbers, allergies to medications, etc.). Please contact the school nurse to update any information.

Having current information will be of critical importance should an accident or injury occur that requires medical attention. The district is not responsible for medical costs associated with a student's injury. The district does make available, however, an optional, low-cost student accident insurance program to assist parents in meeting medical expenses. A parent who desires coverage for his or her child will be responsible for paying insurance premiums and for submitting claims through the Principal's office. (See Emergency Medical Treatment)

Searches by Trained Dogs

The district does use trained dogs for searches in compliance with the Fourth Amendment of United States Constitution.

Smoking

Students may not smoke or use tobacco products or possess matches or lighters on school property or at any school-related or school sanctioned activity, on or off property.

Students Offices and Elections

Students holding office must meet UIL eligibility requirements.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of Silence

According to State law all students in the state of Texas will be asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, the State Pledge and observe one minute of silence during the school day.

Tardies

Generally there is no excuse for being tardy to school or to class. It is considered an absence rather than tardy if a student is 15 minutes late to school or a class. In addition, students may be assigned to detention hall by an administrator at any time a student is out of class without a hall pass. Students that are tardy will be assigned Lunch Detention. If a student fails to show for Lunch Detention they will be assigned an additional day of detention. If student fails to show after this they will be assigned ISS. Habitual tardies may face further administrative action, to include Saturday school. Students are considered tardy if they are not in the classroom when the tardy bell rings.

Testing

Please contact the counseling office for information concerning standardized testing such as TAKS and college entrance tests such as SAT, ACT or THEA.

Textbooks

When the student is issued textbooks, it becomes the responsibility of the student to see that they are not damaged and are covered at all times. Fines will be assessed for damaged books, and books that are lost must be paid for before a student can be given a clear record. A book lost during the year must be paid for before another book is issued. Students need to check their books for any damage and report damage upon receiving them. Students who do not clear their book records from the previous year will not be issued books.

Travel—School Sponsored

Students who participate in school-sponsored trips are required to ride in transportation provided by the school to and from the event. However, the principal may make an exception to this requirement under the following circumstances:

1. The parent personally requests that the student be permitted to ride with the parent; or
2. On the day before the scheduled trip, the parent presents a written request that the student be permitted to ride with an adult designated by the parent.

Trespassing

Trespassing is not allowed on the high school campus. Violators may be arrested and charges may be filed in the appropriate court of law.

(Please see Visitors below)

Tutorial Program

Tutorials are scheduled by departments. Please check with your teachers for tutorial times.

Skateboards

Skateboards are prohibited from the campus at all times; including extracurricular activities.

Vehicles on Campus

All students operating motor vehicles on the school grounds are required to register their vehicle with the principal's office and secure a parking permit. The fee for a parking permit is \$5.00. Permits must be purchased each year. In order to secure a parking permit, the student must possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license and must be able to produce a motor vehicle certificate of title if requested to do so. The parking permit must be prominently displayed above the registration and inspection sticker, and the vehicle must be parked

appropriately in area designated student parking. Any vehicle parked on campus violating parking rules may be towed at owner's expense.

Students must conform to all safety laws. The speed limit on school grounds is 15 miles per hour. The school reserves the right to search vehicles parked on school property, for reasonable cause, at any time without notice, without student consent and without a search warrant. Students failing to cooperate with campus administration are subject to disciplinary action up to and including DAEP placement. Parking or driving privileges may be revoked for any of the following reasons:

- Reckless or careless driving on school property.
- Revving engine, spinning tires, blaring audio system, etc.
- Failure to follow any previously mentioned rules or regulations.
- Improper use of a motor vehicle on school property for such things as drinking, smoking, eating lunch, etc.
- Leaving school grounds without authorization.
- Unauthorized parking in areas reserved for visitors, school staff, safety vehicles and faculty members.
- Failure to cooperate with school administrators.
- Failure to park in designated student parking areas (within the lines, etc.).

Violations may result in the following disciplinary actions.

1st violation: loss of driving privileges on-campus for up to 6 weeks.

2nd violation: loss of on-campus driving privileges for up to 1 semester.

3rd violation: loss of on-campus driving privileges for up to one school year.

4th violation: loss of all on-campus driving and parking.

Visitors

All visitors must first report to the principal's office. Visitors on campus during school hours who have not reported to the principal's office may be considered trespassing on school property may be subject to arrest and charges being filed in the appropriate court of law.

Bus Transportation

***Please refer to Transportation Rules on page 26 of the handbook.**

APHS Student Disciplinary Plan:

Campus administrators will use the following consequences when a student violates the Code of Conduct. Additional consequences may be discretionary removal to DAEP. Disciplinary actions will draw on professional judgment of teachers and administrators.

Office Referral Consequences

Warning, Behavior Contract, counseling, and a parent conference

In School Suspension = 1 day

In School Suspension = 2 days

In school Suspension = 3 days

(PURG) = 5 days

(PURG) = 10 days

DAEP 1 Disciplinary Alternative Educational Environment (Walter Noble Campus) = 45 days with review at 30 days (school days)

DAEP 2 Disciplinary Alternative Educational Environment (Walter Noble Campus) = 45 days minimum (school days)

Detention

Detention is an exchange of time on the part of the student for some level 1 or minor infraction of a school or classroom rule. Students may be assigned to detention after school or during lunch. A student may be assigned detention by an administrator only for any minor offense. In all cases, the parent is to be made aware of the student attending D-Hall either by an administrative form signed by the student or by telephone contact.

Teacher Detention

Teachers may assign detention for some Level 1 or minor infractions of a school; or classroom rule. Teachers may assign students to their own before school or after school detention which they will conduct. Parents will be notified by an administrative form signed by the student or by telephone contact

ISS (In School Suspension)

Office referral for serious and persistent behavior = 1 day/2 days/3 days ISS. While assigned to ISS students are suspended from attending or participating in extracurricular activities. ISS hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bus transportation will not be provided to those students in ISS/PURG.

ISS students are under the supervision of a certified teacher/s. This teacher is responsible for coordinating daily instruction between the general and special education teachers and the student placed in to these programs. This teacher (or teachers) will check the student's work for completeness and effort.

The ISS student will not be allowed to return class work to his/her regular or special education teachers that is not a best effort attempt. The student will be warned that only academically and behaviorally successful days will count toward the student's release back to the student's regular schedule of classes.

DAEP (Disciplinary Alternative Educational Placement)

DAEP is an off campus, long term alternative educational placement. Students who are placed in DAEP are suspended from participation in all extra curricular activities, are on social probation, and are prohibited from being on any APISD campus or property other than the Walter Noble Facility.

Placement Under Restrictive Guidance (PURG)—APHS

PURG is an on-campus, short term, intensive alternative educational setting that allows the student an opportunity to correct his/her behavior without being removed from the campus. These students are suspended from participation in extracurricular activities while they are in this program. PURG hours are 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m. **Bus transportation will not be provided for students in ISS/PURG**

Philosophy:

APISD Secondary Students will be offered the opportunity to correct inappropriate behaviors that would normally have placed these students at the Walter Noble Facility – Disciplinary Alternative Educational Placement. These students will remain on campus where they can receive the maximum instructional benefit, but in a restrictive or corrective environment.

Services:

PURG students are under the supervision of a certified teacher/s. This teacher is responsible for coordinating daily instruction between the general and special education teachers and the student placed in to these programs. This teacher (or teachers) will check the student's work for completeness and effort.

The PURG student will not be allowed to return class work to his/her regular or special education teachers that is not a best effort attempt. The student will be warned that only academically and behaviorally successful days will count toward the student's release back to the student's regular schedule of classes.

Students placed in PURG will receive training in social skills, positive behavioral interventions, and group and individualized counseling that are designed to improve the student's academic performance and personal behavior.

ISS/PURG Rules Violations

Students assigned ISS or PURG have rules they must follow.

Violation of these rules could result in additional days being assigned, OSS, or recommendation for DAEP placement.