**SEM Senior Information Packet**

**Fall 2017**

Join our Remind 101: text @semsenior to 81010 or download the Remind 101 app

**Attendance Policy & College Visit Policy**

**High School Attendance – DALLAS ISD Policy**

**College Visits**

Students are allowed **two** college outside of school sponsored college visits per year. These are excused if a letter from the college or university is returned to campus within 3 days of the student’s return to school.

To receive credit in a class, a student must attend at least **90% of the days the class offered**. The actual number of days a student must attend in order to receive credit will vary, depending on the number of days in a semester and the schedule of classes in the school. A student who attends fewer than 90% of the days the class is offered cannot receive credit for the class unless the Attendance Review Committee finds that the absences are the result of extenuating circumstances or can be made up during a designated period (i.e. after school or on a Saturday(s). This policy does not affect a student’s right to excused absences to observe religious holy days. If a student is denied credit for a class by the attendance committee, the student may appeal the decision to the principals of their schools at Yvonne E. Townview Center.

**Excused Temporary Absence/Returning to school (DISD Code of Conduct)**

A student may be excused for temporary absence resulting from any cause acceptable to the teacher, principal, or superintendent of the school in which the child is enrolled. To excuse legitimate student absences, the principal shall require written excuses signed by the student’s parent or guardian to be submitted to the proper school authorities **no later than three (3) school days after the student returns to school. This includes college visits. Students are allotted 2 college visits PER YEAR. Students must bring a signed letter from the college or university stating that they were at a college visit.**

After an absence, a student must bring a note signed by the parent or guardian that describes the reason for the absences. The note must be submitted to the proper school authorities **no later than three days after the student returns to school.** Absences for which the student has approved documentation for extenuating circumstances may be considered excused. Student absences may be verified by the principal or appropriate designee to determine the extent of the circumstances.

**Unexcused Absences**

Absences not eligible to be excused and absences for which a written excuse is not received within three days shall be counted as unexcused absences.

Students may receive an unexcused absence if they don’t turn in a written excuses within 3 days of their return to school for one or more of the following reasons:

* Being ill
* Hospitalization
* Funeral
* Doctor/Dentist appointment
* Sent home by school nurse
* Picked up early by parents
* **College visit 2 per year - code L will be used (more than 2 with verification from college campus will only be excused with code E)**

**Please note the following:**

* Vacations are not excused for any reason
* An excuse note is required ANYTIME the parent picks the student up early for an appointment or because of illness on the following day

**Tardy Policy**

Yvonne E. Townview Center will implement the following *Tardy Policy* for ALL students for the 2016-2017 school year. Yvonne E. Townview Center has established **a 20 minute grace period where the student can be marked tardy (T) within 20 minutes of the start of class. After 20 minutes are up, students are marked absent (U).**

**Truancy Letters and Court Dates**

A student commits truancy if the student is required to attend school under Section 25.085; **Truancy only looks at unexcused absences.** Truancy issues (1) fails to enroll or (2) fails to attend school and doesn’t provide an excused note within the 3 day rule. (3) They are 5 levels in truancy letters. One; parent gets a warning call from truancy department. Two and Three; parent gets letter in mail. Parent and student need to inquire about letters ASAP. Fourth; possible court date letter. Need to make an appointment with assistant principal. Fifth; student accumulated 10 unexcused days or **parts of days** in a six-month period. Court date is issued.

For truancy violations, a juvenile court always has original jurisdiction under the Family Code. Once jurisdiction is waived to a Justice of the Peace or Municipal court, truancy becomes “failure to attend” under Chapter 45 code of Criminal Procedure. Warrants go out to students in failure to attend the court. Under TECs25.0951, a court is required to dismiss a complaint regarding absences if the school fails to file the complaint within ten school days of the student’s tenth absence.

A parent contributes to truancy if the parent fails to require the child to attend school as required by law, and the child has absences for the amount of time specified under Section 25.094.

**Lunch**

Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center is **NOT** an open campus. Students are not permitted to leave school campus during school hours unless escorted and signed out by a parent or with parent permission. Students are **NOT** permitted to leave for lunch. Failure to comply with these rules will result in termination of participation in school activities and senior activities included but not limited to graduation exercises and events.

For attendance related questions:

* Attendance Concerns: Ms. Davila (galardin@dallasisd.org)
* For Credit Recovery: Mr. Samford (GSamford@dallasisd.org)
* For Truancy Concerns: Ms. McDonald (YaBrown@dallasisd.org)

**College Information**

**In School College Visits:**

SEM does have colleges come to visit during the school day and students are allowed to visit those college representatives. However, students are responsible for any work missed and are encouraged to only attend the presentations of colleges that they are truly interested in.

District College fair is September 20, 2017 at Ellis Davis Field House

**Ellis Davis Field House**

**9191 S Polk St; Dallas, Texas 75232**

**College Application Deadlines**

Apply Texas (public schools in Texas): Due December 1st (However students are encouraged to finish ASAP)

Common App (private schools & schools outside of Texas): December 15th

Early Decision & Early Action (for most schools): November 1st

**SEM Specific Deadlines for Fall**

Initial Essay Due Date: August 28

Revisions to Essays: October 6

Recommendation Requests for Early Action & Early Decision: Sept. 15

Senior ACT: October 3

**SAT Testing Calendar**

* **SAT Subject Tests: See college board website for a list of test given on each date**
	+ **Test dates: October 7, 2017, November 4, 2017, December 2, 2018**
	+ **Registration for each test date is due a month before the teste date**

**Financial Aid Information**

**FAFSA Information**

**The application opens OCTOBER 1!**

Online applications must be submitted by midnight Central Time, June 30, 2018.
Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Time, September 23, 2018.

**State Deadline**

Texas - March 15, 2018, by midnight, Central Time. **If you are at Texas resident, this is your deadline!**

**Many states do operate on a first-come, first-served basis until funds run out, so it’s *always* in your best interest to submit the FAFSA as soon it’s available on October 1!**

**College Deadline**
Check with the college(s) you are interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline - whether it is the date the college receives your FAFSA, or the date your FAFSA is processed.

**Senior Events**

**Waived Costs**

Students get 8 free college applications, plus 2 SAT waivers, 2 ACT waivers, 2 SAT Subject Test Day waivers plus a school day SAT and ACT at no cost to them.

Average cost of college application: $60

SAT (with Essay): $54.50

ACT (with Essay): $56.50

SAT II: $26 and covers up to three tests on the same day

**Estimated Cost of Senior Year**

Parking Pass (for school): $5

Laptop Rental: $20

Prom: $90

Picnic: $55

Cap & Gown: $45.95

Senior Field Trips & Luncheon: $60

Senior Night: $20

Panoramic: $45

SEM Yearbook: $50

Senior Picture Sitting Fee: $15

**Estimated Total Cost: $404.95**

**Laptop Rentals**

Students can rent a laptop from the School of Science & Engineering for $20. Students and parents must fill out an application that can be picked up at the SEM office.

**Senior Parking**

All students that drive to school must present proof of insurance, driver’s license and pay the $5 fee for a pass. Cars will be towed this year so students are encouraged to do this ASAP.

**Senior Picture**

The cap & gown picture will be taken by Logan’s on November 11, 2017. There will be a $15 sitting fee. Students will be scheduled through their English class.

**Prom**

Prom will be on May 18, 2018 at the Hilton Anatole. Information regarding times will be communicated in the second semester. The cost is $90 and all students are encouraged to attend.

**Hilton Anatole**

**2201 N Stemmons Fwy, Dallas, TX 75207**

**Senior Picnic**

Senior Picnic will be at Southern Cross on May 23, 2017. Payments are $55 and all students are encouraged to attend.

**Southern Cross**

**1800 Dowdy Ferry Rd, Dallas, TX 75217**

**Fall Senior Parent Payments for Prom & Picnic**

Payments for Senior Picnic & Prom will be taken in the FALL semester. No payments will be taken in spring semester. Information about payments will be communicated during the second week of October.

**Senior PSAT**

Seniors are not to attend school on October 11th 2017 due to campus PSAT. Students are to take that day to attend a local college for a college visit. This is a school-sponsored activity with parent provided transportation. Please see attached letter.

**Senior Tributes**

Students will be asked to write a senior tribute thanking important people to be read at graduation. This will be due in January.

**Senior Exit Meeting**

There will be an exit meeting in the Spring to discuss college entry and graduation procedures

**Senior Activities & Senior Finals & Senior AP Exams**

AP Exams will take place from May 7th – May 18th 2018

Senior Finals will take place from May 14th – May 15th 2018

**Seniors who have conflicting AP exams will have to make arrangements to make up final exams later in the week.**

**Senior Panoramic**

April 23, 2018. Usually costs between ($25 - $45)

**Senior Baccalaureate**

This is a PTSA/Booster Club run event. Sunday, May 6, 2019 at Concord Church at 4 PM. Students arrive at 3 PM

**Concord Church**

**6808 Pastor Bailey Drive Dallas, Texas 75237**

**Senior Night**

Senior night will be at Celebration Station on December 8th, 2016 from 7-11PM. The cost is $20 and all proceeds will go to subsidize the cost of graduation.

**Celebration Station**

**4040 Towne Crossing Blvd, Mesquite, TX 75150**

**Senior Awards Night**

There will be a Senior Awards Night on May 17th where we honor the graduating class and all of their accomplishments. More information will be communicated about this in the Spring.

**Graduation**

Graduation will take place on May 29, 2018 at the Majestic Theater. Parking will be $10-15 per car.

Majestic Theater

1925 Elm St, Dallas, TX 75201

**Jostens Information**

*Payments for caps & gowns, announcements, invitations must be made directly to Jostens, NOT to SEM. Each graduating senior must have a cap and gown in order to join the graduation procession. All other purchases through Jostens are optional. Below, you’ll find the information for Jostens where payments may be made in person and the information for the sales representative.*

Jostens Main Office

4930 Olson Dr #300

Dallas, TX 75227

**Jostens will be at SEM in October to take payments for caps & gowns. This is the only date that Jostens will be ON CAMPUS to take orders. The process of paying at Jostens is much more complicated and SEM does not advice parents to wait until later to order caps & gowns. All caps and gowns must be ordered by end of April**

**Payments can also be made at the Jostens.com for existing orders. Initial orders must be made in person. Go and select “School of Science & Engineering” from the top left hand side of the Jostens.com home page.**

**Other Events**

Please be advised that there are other events such as but not limited to movie nights, dances, Oktoberfest, Fall Fling that students may want to attend that have a fee for entry.

Failure to comply with the rules of Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center, the School of Science and Engineering Student Code of Conduct and Parent Compact, or with Dallas ISD may result in termination or exclusion in school activities, senior activities including but not limited to graduation. Please remember that these are privileges and not rights; all students must comply with all rules in order to be eligible in participation in senior activities.

I understand that compliance with the Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center rules and the Dallas ISD rules and guidelines is mandatory. Failure for my child to adhere to the rules and guidelines set forth can result in termination of senior privileges and participation in senior activities.

Student Name (printed):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (printed); \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_