

Silver Creek High School

FAQ's for Freshmen and Freshmen Parents



1. *What time does school start?*

Typically, first period begins at 7:15 AM in the morning. For those on a Period 2 to 7 schedule, school (second period) begins at 8:13 AM. For minimum days (which are typically on Mondays), school begins at 7:30 AM and 8:15 AM, respectively.

2. *When does school year start and stop?*

Typically, the school year for students begins on the third Tuesday of August and ends just before Memorial Day in May. The current schedule has the first semester ending before the Christmas holiday instead of having finals after the holidays.

3. *Is there a dress code?*

Yes, there is. Primarily, it has to do with not wearing reds or no blues in all clothing, shoes, backpacks, etc. Assistant Principal Tammy Maddox is the contact person with regards to dress code.

4. *Where can I find the school calendar for holidays and for events at school?*

The calendar of school days for the ESUHS is available for download through the district's website (www.esuhds.org). A school calendar is provided to each student at the beginning of the year and can also be viewed on the Silver Creek website (under redesign by the web design class).

5. *Who are the administrators at Silver Creek?*

Our principal is Ms. Thelma Boac – who has been the leader of our high school since the fall of 2004. Her assistant principals are Mr. Adolfo Laguna, Associate Principal – Education Development; and Ms. Tammy Maddox, Associate Principal – Administrative Services. Their contact information is

Principal Thelma Boac: T.408.347.5611; boact@esuhds.org

Associate Principal Adolfo Laguna: T.408.347.5630; lagunaa@esuhds.org

Associate Principal Tammy Maddox: T.408.347.5620; maddoxt@esuhds.org

6. *Given the issues reported in the local newspaper about other schools, what actions have been taken by the Silver Creek staff to ensure a safe environment for our kids to learn?*

Ms. Tammy Maddox is our Associate Principal – Administrative Services which puts her in charge of attendance and discipline issues on the Silver Creek campus. Ms. Maddox has taken a *proactive* approach to discipline on campus when it comes to providing a safe environment at Silver Creek. She and her team not only make every attempt to identify issues or persons of interest that are becoming discipline problems on campus, but they also extend that network to beyond the school boundaries into the surrounding community. Overall, this proactive approach has resulted in the lowering in the number of discipline referrals, suspensions and expulsions.

Her team also works with the San Jose Police Department in coordinating efforts to keep Silver Creek and its surroundings safe. To discuss safety on campus more completely, please feel free to contact Ms. Maddox at MaddoxT@esuhds.org.

7. Does Silver Creek High School have book lockers?

No, book lockers are no longer available for most of the student population. For special circumstances/needs, please contact a Guidance Counselor or an Assistant Principal.

8. What is the mission of Silver Creek High School?

The mission of Silver Creek High School, in partnership with family, community and businesses, is to provide all of our students with equal access to a quality education in a safe, healthy, challenging and caring environment. Each student is empowered to become an Academic Achiever, a Critical Thinker and an Effective Communicator who interacts cooperatively as a socially responsible citizen in a multicultural and technical world. By exposing each student to a rigorous curriculum in a supportive academic setting, our graduates are ultimately prepared for college, the work place and beyond.

9. Where can I find out about academic requirements for high school graduation?

Current high school graduation requirements can be found on the school district website at <http://www.esuhd.org/Schools/Student-Resources/ESUHSD-Graduation-Requirements/index.html>.

To graduate from the East Side Union High School District, students need to:

- Pass the State High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE);
- Earn 220 units;
- Pass the required courses.

<i>Subjects</i>	<i>Requirements</i>	<i>Units</i>
English	Students must pass four years of English.	40
Social Science	Students must pass three years of Social Science which shall include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One year of World History 2. One year of United States History 3. One semester of American Government 4. One semester of Economics 	30
Mathematics	Students must pass two years of math (the equivalent of Algebra I/Course 1 and Geometry/Course 2 or higher level courses).	20
Science	Students must pass two years of college 20 prep Laboratory Science.	20
Fine Arts or Foreign Language	Students must pass a one year course in either Fine Arts or Foreign Language.	10
Physical Education	Students must pass two years of Physical Education, of which one year must be taken at grade 9.	20
Electives	Students must take at least 80 units of credit in elective areas of study. Students may select elective courses in the following areas: Art, Business, Consumer and Homemaking Education, English, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Music, Industrial Technology Education, Physical Education, Reading, Science, Social Science and Work Experience/CCOC/ROP.	80

10. What are the A-G requirements for college?

The A-G (A through G) requirements are the minimum coursework requirements for admission into a University of California. Please be aware that the coursework for the University of California A-G requirements are more stringent than the current high school graduation requirements noted above:

In order to meet the requirements of the University of California schools, students must complete certain high school subjects with at least a 'C' in each semester. These subjects are referred to as the a-g sequence. The requirements include:	
History/Social Science	Two years required. One year of U.S. History or one-half year of U.S. History and one-half year of Civics or American Government and one year of World History, Cultures, and Geography.
English	Four years required. College preparatory English that includes frequent and regular writing, and reading of classic and modern literature. Not more than two semesters of ninth grade English can be used to meet this requirement.
Mathematics	Three years required. Four years recommended. College Preparatory Mathematics that include the topics covered in elementary and advanced Algebra and two and three-dimensional Geometry. Approved integrated math courses may be used to fulfill part or this entire requirement.
Laboratory Science	Two years required. Three years recommended. Laboratory science providing fundamental knowledge in at least two of the following: Biology (which includes Anatomy, Physiology, Marine Biology, Aquatic Biology, etc.), Chemistry, or Physics. Laboratory courses in earth/space may be acceptable. Not more than one year of ninth grade Laboratory Science can be used to meet this requirement.
Language - Other than English	Two years required. Three years recommended. Two years of the same language. Language courses taken in the seventh and eighth grade may be used to fulfill part of this requirement if your high school accepts them as equivalent to its own courses.
Visual and Performing Arts	One year required. Students must complete a year-long approved course from a single Visual/ Performing Arts area (Visual Arts; Art 1, Crafts, Photography and Performing Arts; Dance, Drama/Theater, Music).
College Preparatory Electives	One year required. In addition to those required above, two semesters chosen from the following areas: Visual and Performing Arts, History, Social Science, English, Advanced Mathematics, Laboratory Science, and Language other than English (a third year in the language used for the 'e' requirement or two years of another language).
Course Credit Requirement: A one year course is equal to one unit of University of California entrance credit. All 15 units required by the University for freshman entrance must be earned in academic or university prep courses. Seven of the 15 units must be taken in the eleventh and twelfth grade.	
Test Scores: Students must submit test scores for either the SAT 1 or ACT and two SAT II tests (Subject Tests including writing, mathematics level 1 or level 2, and one test in one of the following areas: English Literature, Foreign Language, Science, or Social Science).	

11. Has any thought been given to aligning ESUHSD graduation requirements with the University of California A-G requirements?

In his State of the District address last year, the East Side Board of Trustees president, Eddie Garcia, laid out some of his goals for the district. One of these goals includes his vision of creating alignment between the high school graduation requirements and the UC/CSU A-G requirements. In looking them over, you can see that the ESUHSD graduation requirements are already fairly close. To align with the UC/CSU A-G requirements, a student would need to take and pass an additional year of math and foreign language; and take an additional College Prep Elective (see above charts).

During their November 2010 meeting, the ESUHSD Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a resolution to align the district's graduation requirements with the UC/CSU A-G requirements. Incoming ninth graders (or the Class of 2015) will see their class schedules aligned with these new requirements.

12. *What courses are offered at Silver Creek?*

In addition to the coursework material that is typically sent home with your 8th graders, the Silver Creek website has a complete list of courses offered on the SCHS School Loop website: <http://schs.schoolloop.com/file/1159425421861/7367298315502050142.pdf>. Complete course descriptions are also available from the academic counselors.

13. *What are Advanced Placement (AP) courses?...and who can take them?*

Advanced Placement classes are college level classes given in high school for those students (at SCHS – 10th grade and higher) who wish to challenge themselves and possibly get a head start on college. At Silver Creek, AP classes are open to all students to take; and with the high number of qualified instructors, additional sections can usually be accommodated if the demand for a certain class exceeds expectations.

Nationally standardized tests for each of the AP classes is given in May and should the student pass this exam with a 3 or better (on a 5 point scale), he/she will also receive college credit for that AP class. Grades from AP classes are also weighted higher – i.e. an “A” is worth 5 points, a “B” is worth 4 points, etc. Because of the diligent efforts of both the Silver Creek teachers and students, Silver Creek claims either the highest or one of the highest passing rates for the AP exams in the district every year. Last school year, Silver Creek students took close to 800 AP exams.

14. *Does Silver Creek High School offer AP classes and, if so, how many and which ones?*

Most definitely...Annually, Silver Creek students qualify to take more AP exams than any other ESUHSD school. For a complete listing of Advanced Placement classes available at Silver Creek, please contact the academic counselors. As a highlight, AP English is offered for juniors and seniors; AP History is offered for sophomores and juniors; AP Government is offered for seniors; two different sections of AP Calculus are offered for juniors and seniors; AP Statistics; AP Psychology; AP language classes are offered for Spanish and French; etc.

15. *What are some of the electives available for Silver Creek students?*

Some of the electives at Silver Creek include Art, Photography, Band, Chorus, Drama, Accounting, Navy Junior ROTC, Health Science, Law and Society, Philosophy, Physical Geography, Psychology, etc. Please speak with a counselor or associate principal for additional information.

16. *How does Silver Creek High School address the needs of every student?*

In addition to the wide variety of courses available to students, Silver Creek offers many programs to provide that extra help for English Language Learners; for CAHSEE support; Healthy Start; etc.

Healthy Start is a support program designed to address student and family, academic and personal issues. Healthy Start has been at Silver Creek for seventeen years and has helped many students learn to communicate with peers and family members, cope with grief and loss, make

smarter social choices, handle relationships, deal with alcohol or drug use issues, and better understand how to make smarter academic decisions. This program is led/run/coordinated by Joann DeLaRosa.

Silver Creek offers an AVID program. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination and is an academic elective that is based on the philosophy to “hold students accountable to the highest standards, provide academic and social support, and they will rise to the challenge.” Our AVID Coordinator is also our Math Department Chair – Mary Barrett-Wong.

Our Homework Center also meets in the Library on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8 PM. In addition to the Homework Center, tutoring in specific subjects – such as math – is also provided by many of the dedicated teachers at Silver Creek. This year, the PTSA is currently running our 2nd *Annual SCHS Paper Drive* – an opportunity for everyone to donate copy paper to free up budgetary dollars to help continue the funding of tutoring. In addition, a PTSA committee of parents, teachers and students & student organizations has organized efforts to beautify the campus by replanting existing flower beds and adding new flower beds and pots. The community and the Silver Creek family have both donated their time and dollars to this effort. Please continue to *Help Us...Help Our Kids!*

17. *What are some of the classes available at Silver Creek High School that other high schools may not have?*

The Silver Creek family is very proud of all of its programs...A couple of programs that have really stood out include the Silver Creek Thunderously Hip Japanese Program (SCTHJP) and the Forensic Science program. The SCTHJP – under the direction of Sensei Matt Hall – has competed in the Japan Bowl on an annual basis. In 2007, our Silver Creek team brought home a national championship. Silver Creek High School is also honored to have an award winning Forensic Science laboratory science program originally started by Mark Okuda (retired).

18. *What is SCHS’s API score this year? Has it been increasing or decreasing? What have the teachers and staff been doing to improve the API scores?*

For 2010, SCHS’s API score is 771 and is moving upwards every year towards the goal of 800. Unlike other high schools, the teachers and staff use a variety of teaching tools and programs to address the needs of the *individual* students and not just the broad needs of various groups of students. These ever changing teaching tools are continually presented as part of the many Professional Development programs that the teachers and staff participate in during the minimum days and weekends. These programs will ultimately help raise the API score of our school.

Even though the population of Silver Creek has changed dramatically over the past ten to fifteen years – with a much higher number of English Language Learners and fewer students whose parents have college degrees – our overall API score continues to rise. That is a testament to the dedication and tenacity of the teachers and staff to continually adapt to the needs of each student; but, more importantly, teach them ways to reach ever higher goals. In addition, Silver Creek’s rating when compared to high schools of like size and socio-economic makeup is 9 out of 10.

19. *What sports teams are available at Silver Creek?*

As of the March 10, 2009 Board of Trustees’ meeting, after school sports is to be a “self-funded” program. In other words, the entire cost for after school sports is to be generated by the proposed

\$200 per player donation/fee, by donations from the business community, and by fundraising at each school site. The trustees also voted to revisit the “self-funded” status of sports every year...and to determine when and how sports can again be funded by the district’s general fund dollars.

Historically at Silver Creek, all students who want to play sports are encouraged to tryout for their sports team(s). Some of the sports teams at Silver Creek include varsity football, JV football, baseball, softball, wrestling, track and field, cross country, soccer, swimming, water polo, badminton, tennis, badminton, and volleyball. In addition, there are some sports offered as a club team – such as roller hockey which is played at Silver Creek Sports Plex.

With the Measure I failing to pass in November 2010, the Board of Trustees – like many other school districts – may have to revisit this issue in the upcoming school year.

20. Does Silver Creek have an Athletic Boosters Club?

Yes! The Silver Creek Athletic Boosters Club re-established itself in 2009 by a small but active group of parents and teachers. While the organization is in place, it definitely needs the community to volunteer more time and effort towards this worthwhile fundraising program. This fundraising need will even be greater should the self-funded status of sports remain for the next school year and beyond. Fundraising for sports at Silver Creek will no longer be a luxury to help pay for extras but will become a necessary aspect of high school sports.

21. What theater arts programs does Silver Creek have?

Under the direction of Laura Longshore, the theater arts department includes drama, music, choir and dance. The drama department puts a couple of school plays/musicals each year. One the fastest growing programs on campus is dance – with dance performances at everything from Homecoming, Back to School Night, rallies, etc.

22. Is the theater arts department going to get a new venue soon? Is the old theater getting replaced?

Yes and yes! With the bond monies from the voter approved Measure E school bond measure, Silver Creek High School was awarded one of the very first building projects within Measure E. The design and review process for a new Multi-Purpose Building/Performing Arts Center is now complete. The new building will include a new performing arts venue with a full stage; new music classrooms; and new dance studios. Look for groundbreaking of this building to occur at the end of the 2010-2011 school year and completion of the new building project in the fall of 2012.

23. Does Silver Creek have an active after school and school club environment?

Most definitely...The teachers and staff at Silver Creek encourage an active and diverse group of extracurricular activities – especially the clubs:

<i>Club Name</i>	<i>Advisors</i>
Animal Rights	Mrs. Mason
Anime Club	Mrs. McDaniel Mrs. Mason
Black Student Union	Ms. Mitchell Mr. Butler

Breakdancing Club	Mrs. Innes Mrs. Martinez
California Scholarship Federation	Mr. Taylor
Californians For Justice	Mr. Halonen Mr. Dyer
Cambodian Variegation Union	Mrs. Innes Mrs. Bowen
Chess Club	Mrs. Cargill Mr. Bass
Christian Club	Mrs. Mitchell Mr. Butler
Conservation Corporation	Mr. Abrigo Mr. Henninger
Environmental Club	Mrs. Cuevas Mr. Alvarez
Fashion Club	Mrs. Frank Mr. Henninger
Filipino Student Union	Mrs. Barrett-Wong Mr. Abrigo
Film Club	Mr. Chan Mr. Youngblood
French Club	Mrs. Mortine Mrs. Cohen
Gay Straight Alliance	Dr. Tatro Mrs. Wessels
Interact Club	Mr. Murphy Mr. Hanson
Juggling Club	Mr. Hall Mr. Seal
Junior Statesmen of America	Mr. Dirck Mr. Dyer
KEY Club	Miss Amutan
Latino Student Union	Miss Cuevas Mr. Alvarez
Library Club	Mrs. Mason Mr. Dirck
Modeling Club	Mr. Knight Miss Barbara
Nintendo DS Club	Mr. Hall Mr. Seal
One on One	Mrs. McDaniel Mrs. Innes
Spanish Guitar Club	Mr. Gonzalez Mr. Trang
Sports Club	Mr. Henninger Mr. Youngblood
Video Game Club	Mr. Seal

	Miss Frank
Vietnamese Student Union	Miss Tran
Young Entrepreneurs	Mrs. Tomblin Mrs. Schaivo-Schuhe

24. What is FANTASTICS?

FANTASTICS is an acronym for Fun At Night Through Activities and Skits to Increase Class Spirit. It is a huge, spirit competition between the four classes completely designed, staged and choreographed by the students around a specific theme. During the months leading up to FANTASTICS, Silver Creek students spend many of their weekday afternoons in rehearsal and weekends working on props and costumes. The level of dedication to this event is tremendous!

25. Is there a school newspaper?

The Silver Creek High School paper is called *The Raider Review* and is written and edited by students in journalism classes. An electronic copy can be found on the school website: http://silvercreekhs.ca.campusgrid.net/home/raider_review.htm.

26. How can parents and community members help at Silver Creek?

Parents, future parents and community members are very much welcomed onto the Silver Creek campus to help, to observe and to be part of the Silver Creek family. PTSA – a 501 c 3 non-profit organization – is one of several outlets for parents and the community to volunteer and help create an even better environment for the entire Silver Creek High School family. “*Help Us...Help our Kids!*” Stay in touch with our PTSA either through our Yahoo! Group – SilverCreekPTSA@yahoogroups.com or our Facebook page - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Silver-Creek-High-School-PTSA/122457947785465?v=wall>. Email us at our email address – SilverCreekPTSA@sbcglobal.net.

27. Who do I contact at Silver Creek High School if I have more questions?

Depending on your question(s), the appropriate person to contact can vary. For a complete directory of the teachers, administrators and staff at Silver Creek, please refer to the Information Section of our old school website: <http://silvercreekhs.ca.campusgrid.net/home/Information/Directory>.

In addition, most teachers can be contacted via School Loop. All of the teachers at Creek are encouraged to post assignments and grades to School Loop. Many of the instructors have found the many advantages the School Loop system offers to encourage communication and collaboration.

The main contact information for Silver Creek High School is

Silver Creek High School
3434 Silver Creek Road
San Jose, CA 95121
T.408.347.5600