Yale Secondary Parent Guide 2015 - 2016

"Your Neighbourhood School.... A Great Place to Learn." 34620 Old Yale Road Abbotsford, B. C. V2S 7S6 Telephone: (604) 853-0778 Fax: (604) 854-3754

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Take care of Yourself Take Care of Each Other Take Care of This Place

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Yale Secondary School! If you are a new grade 9 parent, just beginning your high school experience, then you have four amazing years to look forward to. For returning parents, you already know why Yale is a great place to learn. Let's work together to make it even better! I have grown up in the Abbotsford community, and have always heard great things about the positive Yale culture created by the staff, students, and parents. I am a big believer in parental involvement and support. So please feel welcome at "our" school anytime. Please encourage your son or daughter to get involved in school activities, sports teams, and clubs. Make sure they push themselves academically to always do their best work. The Yale experience should give them the necessary building blocks to be successful once they graduate from secondary school.

At Yale the expectations for students and staff are clear and simple: Take Care of Yourself, Take Care of Each Other, and Take Care of This Place. This school year should be a positive experience for your child - but, they must control their own destiny. Please remember that their job is to be a student first, which means academic rigor should be at the forefront of all their decisions. Good study habits can be practiced early in the semester, assisting with exam preparation down the stretch. Our students should have good results, and less excuses, if they plan well for classes. Students should ask for help when needing assistance with courses, or when confronted with a school issue or problem. The staff at Yale will do all they can to assist their learning experience, and help them achieve their desired goals. Have a great year!

Respectfully,

Lance McDonald

Take Care of YOURSELF

Take Care of EACH OTHER

Take Care of THIS PLACE



September 2015

Dear Parent:

Re: Fair Notice Letter

The Board of Education has a responsibility to establish expectations of student conduct in schools as part of its governance role for the District. The Board believes that the responsibility for creating a safe, caring and orderly learning environment must be shared among students, staff and parents. To support these aims, the Board has established both a District Code of Conduct for Students and a Threat Assessment Protocol for all schools.

School staffs are responsible for consistently supporting and applying the District's and School's Codes of Conduct. This involves actively teaching and encouraging the positive expectations we hold for all students. Schools are to be free from discrimination due to race, religion, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation as set out in the BC Human Rights Code.

The Abbotsford School District is dedicated to the creation and maintenance of school environments where all students, parents, staff, and visitors feel safe. In keeping with this commitment, we have also established a District protocol for dealing with threats to members of the school community, and/or school facilities. When knowledge of a significant threat is made, each school's Violence Threat/Risk Assessment Team will complete a threat assessment. The purpose of the threat assessment is to:

- 1. Determine if the threat is widespread and/or needs specialized intervention
- 2. Ensure the safety of the individual(s) who has been threatened
- 3. Determine the best way to support the high risk student who has made the threat so his/her behaviour does not become hurtful or destructive
- 4. Act in a timely and fair manner as set out in the District procedure for Codes of Conduct.

There are situations when a child or youth shares with her/his parents information concerning a student in their school who is behaving in a threatening manner. As important members of our school community, you are encouraged to share such information with a staff member at your child's school. Should you, as a parent, be invited to attend a meeting to discuss safety concerns regarding your child, please be assured that the goal of this meeting is to primarily ensure safety.

With your assistance, we will ensure that each student in our schools is safe, so we can create the most enabling learning environments for all students.

Sincerely,

Kevin Godden Superintendent of Schools

KG:lh

Inside... a Day in the Life at Yale Our Schedule Is . . .

Time	Day 1	Day 2	LION DAY
8:10 - 9:30	1	2	A- 8:10 - 9:15
9:35 – 10:55	2	1	B- 9:20 - 10:20
10:55 - 11:35	LUNCH	LUNCH	X- 10:25 - 11:30
11:40 - 1:00	3	4	C- 12:15 - 1:15
1:05 – 2:23	4	3	D- 1:20 - 2:23

Extended Day Classes: AM classes begin at 7 a.m. PM classes begin at 2:45 p.m.

Attendance

Educational research has shown that regular, consistent attendance leads to academic success. We ask that parents phone in and excuse all absences. Our office hours are from 7:30a.m. to 3:30p.m. but we have an efficient and effective voice messaging system, so for your convenience, you may phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Unexcused absences will be deemed a skip and students will be held accountable for the time missed.

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency you can contact your child through the school phone – 604-853-0778 – our secretarial staff will relay emergency messages, etc. In the event of snow, please listen to STAR FM 98.3, 107.1 or NEWS 1130, and/or check the district website (www.sd34.bc.ca) for school closures etc. In the event of a natural catastrophe or bomb threat, information will be disseminated through local media (e.g. radio). At the sound of a fire alarm, all students will evacuate the building promptly as per rehearsed evacuation plans and follow the direction of their teacher.

Communication

Contacting your child at school

If you need to contact your child at school, call 604-853-0778. Please do not phone your child's cell phone during school hours 8:05 a.m. -2:23 p.m. as the students are not to use their phones during the school day. Their phone will be confiscated for the day if they use it.

Checking on the academic progress of your child

Many teachers are using Check My Mark, a web-based record of assignments given to students. Go to the school website www.yalesecondary.com, scroll down the right side and click on Check Marks. You will be asked for district and school details, the last name of your child and a password that will be given to him/her by their teachers. You will also find the link to Check My Mark at www.yalesecondary.com > Students >Online Marks. You can, of course, also contact the teacher.

Contacting a teacher

Again, go to the school website and follow the path www.yalesecondary.com > Our School > School Staff > scroll down until you find the teacher's name and email address. Email is the preferred method of contact for most of our teachers.

School News and Events

The school website home page is an active source of news as is the Yale Secondary App. The school calendar is constantly updated on both, and is probably the best location to find school events, dates and times. You will also find information under the Parents, Students, Grads, Courses, Programs, Athletics and Library tabs.

Grading

Students will receive course outlines, learning objectives, expectations and grading procedures from each of their subject teachers at the beginning of the semester. A report card will be sent home at the end of each of the four terms and in addition, you may receive interim reports at any time. The grades earned by the student represent a current assessment of student performance referenced to the B.C. Ministry of Education's Provincial Learning Outcomes.

Performance Indicators, formally named Work Habits, refer to student performance in behaviour, work habits, effort and attitude.

- G Good Student Performance
- S Satisfactory Student Performance
- N Student Performance Needs Improvement

Learning Outcome Indicators	%	Term Letter Grade	Final Letter Grade	GPA
Excellent Achievement	86- 100%	А	А	4
Very Good Achievement	73-85%	В	В	3
Satisfactory Achievement	67-72%	C+	C+	2.5
Acceptable Achievement	60-66%	С	С	2
Minimally Acceptable Achievement	50-59%	C-	C-	1
Fail	0-49%	F	F	0

Honour Roll

Yale Secondary recognizes students who show excellence in their studies through the Honour Roll. At the end of each semester students who are on the Honour Roll receive a letter from the Principal. If they are on the Honour Roll for all 4 terms of the school year, in each of their 4 years in high school their name is placed on the 4 year Honour Roll and they will receive an award. Students that excel in their Gr. 11 courses leading up to provincially examinable Gr. 12 courses are placed on the Principal's Honour Roll.

Awards for Excellence

Awards presentations honour those students who achieved excellence during the school year. Presentations are held in June. Awards are designed to inspire, encourage and reward desirable achievement, behaviour, effort, activities and attitudes on the part of students. Awards are presented for outstanding achievement, citizenship, honour roll and service.

Expectations

Students at Yale have the right to and are responsible for:

- Attending all classes
- Being prepared for class (textbooks, pens, paper etc)
- Asking questions, when they don't understand
- Completing all homework and assignments
- Being in a safe and secure environment free of bullying and harassment

Students must follow and understand the following rules:

• I will attend regularly and remain in class.

- I will abstain from alcohol or drugs during school time.
- I will not fight, bully or harass another student.
- I will participate in activities offered by the school (sports, leadership, clubs etc)
- I will not cheat or plagiarize..I will follow the dress code.
- I will not damage, destroy or vandalize school property.
- I will respect others.
- I will accept the consequences of my misbehaviour.

According to the School Act and District policy, students must conform to school rules when:

- At school
- On the way home from school
- In transit to and from school and while attending any school function
- On the premises or school grounds of any school in the district
- On field trips

Learning Services

Counselling Centre

The school-counselling centre offers a complete range of counselling services to the students of the school. These services include personal and social counselling, course planning, career information, post-secondary school requirements, financial assistance, and local bursary and scholarship information. Student files are assigned alphabetically by school to the counsellors, but the students themselves are free to talk to any counsellor they choose. The staff's counselling assignments are:

Mrs. S. Perry A – G Miss C. Baldwin H – N Mr. L. Bartlett O – Z

Learning Centers

These programs provide academic support to students who are designated as having a learning disability and to those who qualify for learning assistance support. We have THREE Learning Centers under the guidance of Mr. Hall, Mr. White, and Mrs. Solomon. Students who qualify can receive a support block or monitoring. Referral to Learning Centers is made through Yale's School Based Team meeting.

Traverse

The purpose of Traverse is to help students be successful and provide a sanctuary within the school setting. The Traverse staff act as advocates for the students.

Career Coordinator

Mr. Radons is our Career Coordinator and he is available to provide job and volunteer experience and/ or information. He also coordinates the Secondary Apprenticeship Program, Work Experience and Grad Transitions.

Homework Club

Student who need extra time or support in their academic studies are encouraged to attend Homework Club. It runs after school Monday to Thursday, 2:30 – 3:45.

Resources

Library Learning Resources

The school library is the centre for an incredible amount of learning. Open before school, all day and after school, our library is the hub of the most important student activities in our school: reading, thinking and writing! A variety of resources including multi visual media, computers and books are available to students. Students may borrow materials throughout the year but all library books must be returned by May 24th.

The Yale Library Website is a dynamic website that offers students, teachers, and parents a variety of useful content. Of particular interest are the locally hosted interactive discussion board, the library catalogue search function, the Accelerated Reader book lists, and the assignment links with downloadable assignments. Please visit us on the web at: www.yalesecondarylibrary.com.

Internet and World Wide Web

Access to Internet is available to students from our library and computer labs. All students who wish to have access must complete a services agreement every year that is designed by the School District. Once completed, a copy of the contract will be kept on file. The district has identified very specific terms and conditions of use that must be strictly adhered to by all students accessing Internet and World Wide Web from the school. Please contact the school office if you would like more information.

Yale Website and App

The Yale website is divided a number of sections as is the free Yale Secondary App. We post daily announcements and current happenings on the HOME page. We endeavor to keep both as current as possible and hope that you find it a good source of information.

Learning Opportunities

Students at Yale are challenged to rise to high expectations, excellent standards en route to scholarship, apprenticeship and university/ college opportunities. In addition to the core academic choices, honours and adapted courses in grades 9 and 10, Yale offers 40 plus elective selections in business, fine arts, and practical arts.

Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement allows student to take first year university courses while still at high school. They write their AP exam in May and if they score a 3 or better (out of a possible 5) can receive first year university credit depending on the university of choice. See the AP Central bulletin board or Ms. Smith for complete details. Yale is proud to offer the honours stream in English, Math, Science, Psychology and Art which start in grade nine or ten and work towards mastering a high level of student achievement while ensuring student receive an enriched curriculum.

Student Leadership

Expect several fun activities coordinated by student leadership this year with spirit events, pep rallies, dances and dress up days. As well, there will be fund raising events to support community and global organizations like "Live to Give" in which Yale raised over \$ 18,000 for Free the Children. Encourage your child to make their time at Yale memorable by participating in fun events that support not only your school but also your community and even the world. SHOW YOUR SPIRIT YALIENS! JOIN THE FUN AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Link Crew

Link Crew is a high school transition program that welcomes our Grade 9s and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their high school experience. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, Link Crew trains members of the junior and senior classes to be Link Leaders. As positive role models, Link Leaders are motivators, leaders and teachers who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to high school and help facilitate freshman success. More and more studies show that if students have a positive experience their first year in high school, their chance for success increases dramatically.

Sport Academies

"...to develop self-confident Life Champions who are committed to continuous improvement as scholars, athletes, and community leaders.."

The Yale Hockey Academy is a skills-based academy that specializes in high performance training and elite skill development of athletes during school hours. We operate out of Yale Secondary School as well as the Abbotsford Recreation Centre. Students receive full credit for their on-and-off ice training: P.E. 9,10, and 11 as well as Strength & Conditioning 9,10, and 11. Our Instructors include Brad Bowen, Andy Nielsen, and Erin Thornton. All of our instructors have had high experience either as players or coaches and are well known in the community for their expertise of elite skill development and Kinesiology training. In addition, the Yale Hockey Academy has full support from B.C .Amateur Hockey Association, Abbotsford Minor Hockey Association, and Pacific Coast Amateur Hockey Association.

The Yale Baseball / Softball Academy also specializes in high performance training and elite skill development of athletes during school hours. We operate out of Yale Secondary School as well as the Abbotsford Recreation Centre, Ag-Rec complex and Delair Field.

Students receive full credit for their training: P.E. 9,10, and 11 as well as Strength Conditioning 9,10, and 11. We have Nationally and Internationally recognized instructors who work with our athletes. The Yale Baseball / Softball Academy operates from September 8th to Jan 22nd. We engage in 72 training days that are approx 2 hours in length. The dry land program focuses primarily on core training and plyometrics. All Sport Academy Students are taken through extensive plyometric training, SAQ sessions (Speed, Agility, Quickness) as well as valuable classroom sessions that focus on sports nutrition, sport psychology, and sport injury management.

Sports and Clubs at Yale

At Yale, we pride ourselves on the quadruple "A" threat – Academics, Athletics, Arts and Atmosphere. The following are a list of sports, teams and seasons of play. Time commitment for each sport vary so check with the coach for tryout times, practice schedules, and game commitments.

Fall Sports	Winter Sports	Spring Sports
Swimming	Wrestling	Rugby Jr. Boys
Volleyball Jr. Girls Sr. Girls Jr. Boys Sr. Boys	Basketball Jr. Girls Sr. Girls Jr. Boys Sr. Boys	Sr. Boys Jr./Sr. Girls Soccer Sr. Girls Track and Field
Soccer Jr. Boys Sr. Boys Cross Country		Golf Tennis

Parent Code of Conduct

The essential elements of character building and ethics in athletics are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. The highest potential of athletics is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character". Therefore I agree:

- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices.
- I will respect the officials and their authority during games.
- I will not confront coaches at the game court or field, and will take time to speak to coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
- I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the student athletes.
- I will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players' coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice or sporting event.
- I understand that any violation of this code of conduct may be cause for dismissal, suspension, or permanent expulsion from future athletic contests.

Another way to get involved at Yale is through the many clubs and groups available. Each offers a different service to its members, the community, and to the school. Check out one and see if it's a fit for your child!

Service	General Interest
Key Club –Mr. Caron Interact – Mrs. Larsen	Yearbook – Mr. Jung Grad Council – Mr. Primrose / Mrs. Rajabally Improv – Mr. Taylor Fall & Spring Play – Mr. Taylor Musical Theatre – Mr. Taylor/Mr. Reynolds Prayer Group – Mr. Gripp Link Crew – Mrs. Tessarolo

Information on Other School Procedures

Lockers

Student lockers and combination locks are provided by the school. These lockers are rented to the students for their use during the school year. Students are asked to refrain from decorating or defacing lockers in such a manner that they cannot easily be converted to their original state. Students are also asked to keep their lockers tidy and well organized throughout the year. Locks and lockers are paid for by student activity fees. Lockers are secure if and only if students refrain from sharing their lock combinations with friends. Students are to stay in the locker assigned to them. Students should be aware that lockers may be searched in the event that school safety is at issue. Please see the District Administrative Procedure 332 for more information.

Student Telephone

A telephone outside the office is available for student use. (No calls during class time).

Electronic Devices

We ask that students refrain from bringing IPods, MPS and cellphones to school. See the District Administrative Procedure 323 – Handheld Devices. (www.sd34.bc.ca > District Info > Section 30:Students > 323)

If they do bring their cell phone to school students are expected to use cell phones in appropriate ways. Teachers will outline their classroom policy at the beginning of the semester. Students caught using these devices without permission of their teacher may have the device confiscated. In an emergency situation where parents/guardians need to contact their student, please call the school and we will pass on a message immediately. (604-853-0778) If you must bring a cell phone to school, lock it up! The school is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.

Textbooks

Textbooks are provided to all students. Many of these books now cost in excess of \$80.00 each. Students are asked to afford their books the care and attention they deserve. Students will be assessed school costs for any textbooks unduly damaged or lost during the school year.

Yale Graduation

Graduation 2016

The school ensures that a range of courses needed for graduation is available and that ministry forms, etc. are completed and various school requirements (examinations, etc.) are met. Students are responsible for taking the required number and variety of courses. If you have questions regarding your courses consult your counsellor before September 11th, 2015.

Grad Council 2016

Grad Council is in charge of all the activities for the class of 2016. As the leaders of the graduating class, they determine ways to involve all grads in preparing for a most important moment in their school career, graduation! The grad fee for 2016 will be \$265 and is due by October 30th, 2015.

Graduation Ceremony Eligibility

Students may participate in the graduation ceremonies only if they are taking a course of studies that satisfies the provincial graduation requirements. Students enrolled in courses outside of Yale that are required for graduation must have 80% completion by May 1, 2016 to be eligible to participate in the ceremony. A student may participate in the ceremonies and other activities only once.

Valedictorian

A Valedictorian is a representative of a graduating class who speaks on behalf of the graduates at the commencement exercises. This honour is bestowed on an outstanding representative of the graduating class who has a 4.0 GPA and has made significant contributions to the school. Applicants will be reviewed by a committee of staff members who will provide a short list of candidates to Grads will then vote for their valedictorian

Grad Transitions

Starting in 2007, students are required to complete the Graduation Transition requirements in order to graduate. This has evolved out of the Graduation Portfolio. There are three parts to the Transitions:

1) Personal Health

- a) Engage in 80 hours of physical activity
- b) Develop a healthy living plan

2) Community Connections

- a) Participate in 30 hours of work experience or volunteer work
- b) Describe the experience

3) Career & Life

- a) Develop a plan that takes you from school to the world outside
- b) This includes looking at career options, skills needed, paths to take and financial planning

The Transitions teacher will meet with each student as they complete their work and will do the evaluation at that time. There is no grade associated with the Transitions requirement, but will appear on the transcript as RM (requirement met)

Graduation Requirements

Graduation requirements begin in grade 10 and continue through to grade 12. In total, 80 credits are required for graduation (equivalent to 20, four-credit courses). 48 credits (or 12 courses) are required including:

English 10, English or Communications 11 & English or Communications 12 Social Studies 10 & 11 Science 10 plus a Science 11 or 12 Mathematics 10 & 11 Physical Education 10 Fine Arts or Applied Skills 10, 11 or 12 Planning 10 Graduation Transitions

28 credits (7 courses) are Elective including:

Course with a required provincial exam worth 20% Course with a required provincial exam worth 40%

(Minimum of 16 credits (or four courses) at the Grade 12 level including English or Communications 12. All Ministry-authorized and Board/Authority-Authorized courses count.)

Detailed information can be found on the Ministry of Education website: http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/graduation/grad2004.htm

Course Withdrawal Requirements

- Course withdrawal must be done in consultation with counsellor and teacher. See your counsellor for information.
- Semester one courses must be dropped no later than the last school day in November.
- Semester two courses must be dropped no later than the last school day in April.
- Year long courses must be dropped no later than the end of the week that 3rd term report cards are issued.
- Students in grades 9-11 will receive a grade of "F" for a dropped course.

NOTE: Students are not eligible for Honour Roll if they do not carry a full course load.

Study Policy

Yale Secondary offers a rich variety of courses and believes that students should take advantage of the opportunity for a full education. In-school study blocks are a privilege reserved for senior students who have ample credits and challenging course loads. Please see the student handbook, also available online, for a detailed outline of our study policy.

Grad 2016 Activities and Events

Meet the Teacher	October 1
Post Secondary Evening @ Abby Christian	September 24 @ 6:30pm
Grad BBQ	September 30
Grad Parent Meeting	October 8 @ 7pm
Parent/Teacher Interviews	October 22 @ 6pm
Grad Parent Committee Mtg #1	October 22 @ 5pm
Grad Photos	October 26 – November 6
Grad Fees Due	October 30th
Grad Photo Retakes	November 19-20

Grad Fashion Show	November 25 @ 7pm
SAT Exam	December 5
Grad Parent Committee Mtg #2	December 16 @ 5pm
Grad Cruise	December 17
Grad Parent Committee Mtg #3	January 14 @ 5pm
Grad Lock in	January 29
Parent/Teacher Interviews	March 10 @ 6pm
SAT Exam	June 4
Convocation Rehearsal	June 7, 3:30pm @ Abbotsford Centre
Convocation	June 9, 4:30pm @ Abbotsford Centre
Prom Tea	June 18 @ 2:30pm @ Yale
Prom	June 18, 4:00 pm to Vancouver
Show 'N' Shine	June 21

*Grade 12 students who choose, in their final year, to attend school or a school event (school dance, field trip, etc) having consumed drugs or alcohol, or participating in any other serious misconduct may not be allowed to take part in these events. We expect our grad class to be leaders in the school and set a good example by making positive choices.

Parents at Yale

Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.)

As a parent of a student at Yale; you are a member of the PAC. The Yale PAC meets monthly at the school. Watch the App and the website for dates and times. PAC would love to see more new faces at future meetings. If you are interested in finding out more about what goes on at Yale and throughout the district, please attend. You should also know that the PAC does not do fundraising. If that is what has kept you away in the past, please know that we receive our funds through Bingo and Direct Access Grants. Last year we had approximately \$50,000 to spend. We will have a similar amount to spend this year, so if you would like a say in how to spend this money, please attend our meetings.

School Events 2015-2016

First Day of School – September 8	Report Cards Home – November 19
Yale Wear Sales – September 15 - 26	Grad Photo Retakes – November 20 &
School Photos – September 10	21
Yale Wear Sales-Sept 14-24	Grad Fashion Show – November 25
Free Jr Bbq – September 16	Parent Teacher Conf. Day – November 27
Free Sr Bbq – September 17	Non-Instructional Day – November 28
Non-Instructional Day – September 25	Grade 11 Career Fair – November 30
Grad BBQ-September 30	Food Drive – Nov 30-Dec 12
Meet-the-Teacher – October 1	Drama Festival – December 1-4
Grade Parent Meeting – October 8	SAT Exams – December 5
Pep Rally – October 9	Grad Parent Planning Committee Mtg 2-
Photo Retakes – October 13	Dec 16
BC Student Leadership Conference – Oct 22-25	Grad Cruise – December 17
	Christmas Break – December 21– January 1
Early Dismissal Days – October 22 & 23	
Parent Teacher Interviews – October 22	Exams – January 25 - 28
Halloween Dance – October 29	Semester 2 begins – February 1
Grad Photos – October 26-November 6	Report Cards Home – February 5
Halloween Dance – October 29	Musical "The Wiz" – Feb 14, 19, 20
Grad Fees Due – October 30	Pep Rally – February 17
Parents as Career Coaches Seminar Pt 1–Nov 5	Live to Give Event – February 27
	Non-Instructional Day – February 19
Parents as Career Coaches Seminar Pt	Parent/Teacher Interviews – March 10
2-Nov 12 Calculated Act of Kindness Fair-Nov 13	Grad vs Staff Hockey Game – March 11

School Events 2015-2016 con't..

con't	Spring Play-May 6,7,13,14
Spring Break – March 14 - 24	Canada Day in May – May 19
Good Friday – March 25	Non-Instructional Day – May 20
Easter Monday – March 28	SAT Exams – June 4
Report Cards Home – April 13	Grad Ceremonies – June 9
Yale Idol Finale – April 21	Prom Tea & Prom – June 18
Early Dismissal – April 28	Academic Awards Ceremony – June 14
Non-Instructional Day – April 29	Athletic Banquet – June 14
AP Exams – May 2-13	Last Day of Classes– June 21
	Exams – June 22-27