

STUDENT HANDBOOK
AMERICA'S CHOICE HIGH SCHOOL
2007 – 2008

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95819
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AMERICA'S CHOICE HIGH SCHOOL
SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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AMERICA'S CHOICE HIGH SCHOOL

BEATE MARTINEZ, PRINCIPAL

AMERICA'S CHOICE VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to bring students up to world-class standards by requiring all students to study a rich and challenging curriculum, one that stresses hands-on work, speaks to the lives of adolescents, and addresses real-world matters.

AMERICA'S CHOICE MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to enable all students to succeed in a rapidly changing world by having all students meet state standards, graduate, and be prepared for college. We expect all students to develop a positive educational plan for themselves that focuses on becoming responsible, independent, self-directed learners, and effective communicators who make informed and ethical choices about their future.

STAFF

Administration

Beate Martinez

Role

Principal

Support Staff

Nat Garth

Carol L. Owens

Lucrestus Ross

Role

Parent Outreach Advisor

Counselor/Literacy Coach

Office Manager/Registrar

Teachers

Dr. Comfort Ateh

Mary Lou Hanzlik

Chris Herner

Michael Johnston

Shea Kennedy

Donald Lee

John Rozance

Judith Sakimura

Esmeralda Tapia

Instructional Role

Science and Math

Art

Social Science

English Language Arts

Science

English Language Arts

Math

Resource Specialist

Spanish

Graduation Requirements

4 classes of Math

(4 recommended)
Algebra I*
Geometry
Algebra II
Jr. College

3 classes of English

English 9
English 10
English 11
English 12

4 classes of Lab Science

(4 recommended)
Physical Science
Biology
Chemistry (not offered 06/07)
Physics
Environmental Science

4 classes of Social Studies

U.S. Government/Economics
Geography
U.S. History
World History

2 classes of Foreign Language

(3-4 recommended)
Spanish I
Spanish II

If a student would like to take a different language, he/she may do so at the community college.

2 classes Physical Education

1 class H.S. Exp./Health
1 class of Fine Arts (Art)
1 class of Tech. Literacy
**1 class of Senior Project/
Speech & Debate**

Students will choose 4 of 7 classes listed

**** these classes may be taken more than once**

** Journalism
Humanities

**P.E.
Art II
**Student Government

**Yearbook
Computer Applications II

* As per Sacramento City Unified School District, in order to pass Algebra I, students must satisfactorily complete all course requirements, including the District issued Algebra End of Course Exam.

As per California State law, all students must pass the California High School Exit Exam in English Language Arts and Mathematics in order to earn a diploma and walk across the stage during the graduation ceremonies.

All students must successfully complete the Senior Project in their senior year.

Juniors and seniors, who are on track to graduation, have the opportunity to take classes at the junior college. See Mrs. Owens for more information.

Calendar

Term/Semester Summary

Term 1; Semester 1 begins	8/13/2007
Term 1; Semester 1 ends	10/12/2007
Term 1; Semester 2 begins	10/22/2007
Term 1; Semester 2 ends	12/21/2007
<i>Winter Intersession begins</i>	<i>1/7/2008</i>
<i>Winter Intersession ends</i>	<i>1/25/2008</i>
Term 2; Semester 1 begins	1/28/2008
Term 2; Semester 1 ends	4/4/2008
Term 2; Semester 2 begins	4/14/2008
Term 2; Semester 2 ends	6/18/2008
<i>Summer intersession begins</i>	<i>7/7/2008</i>
<i>Summer intersession ends</i>	<i>7/24/2008</i>

Minimum Days

10/10/2007; Final exams: 10/11/2007 & 10/12/2007

12/19/2007; Final exams: 12/20/2007 & 12/21/2007

4/2/2008; Final exams: 4/3/2008 & 4/4/2008

6/16/2008; Final exams: 6/17/2008 & 6/19/2008

Holidays

Labor Day, Fall Break (10/15 – 10/19/2007), Veterans Day, Thanksgiving (11/21 – 11/23/2007), Winter Break (12/24/2007 – 1/25/2008), Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday, Lincoln Holiday, Washington Holiday, Spring Break (4/7 – 4/11/2008), Memorial Day.

Intersession

Winter and/or Summer Intersession is mandatory for students earning an F or D grade in any college prep class. The two 3-week intersessions are in place of Summer School. Failure to attend will jeopardize your continued enrollment at America's Choice.

DRESS CODE

Students will wear their school shirt 5 days a week. The school logo must be visible at all times and shirts may not be altered in any way.

- No headgear of any kind in classes - this includes hooded sweatshirts, sweatbands, ball caps, doo-rags, scarves, visors, combs, picks, etc.
- No inappropriate clothing anywhere, anytime – this includes gang wear, torn clothing, shorts, skirts or dresses more than four (4) inches above the knee, or hats that advertise alcohol or illegal substances.
- No pajamas.
- No inappropriate jewelry.
- No flip-flops or slippers.
- Entire belt must be worn through belt loops at all times.

America's Choice High School Daily Schedule 2007 - 2008

	Monday	Tuesday		Thursday	Friday	Wednesday	
Long Days						Short Day	
8:15 - 9:45	1 Period	1 Period		1 Period	1 Period	8:15 - 9:35	1 st Period
9:50 - 11:20	2 Period	2 Period		2 Period	2 Period	9:40 - 11:00	2 nd Period
11:25 - 11:55	3 Per. Advisory	3 Per. Advisory		3 Per. Advisory	3 Per. Advisory	11:05 - 12:25	4 th Period
11:55 - 12:25	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch	12:25 - 12:55	Lunch
12:30 - 2:00	4 Period	4 Period		4 Period	4 Period	1:00 - 2:20	5 th Period
2:05 - 3:35	5 Period	5 Period		5 Period	5 Period		

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

Classes: 90 minutes
Advisory: 30 minutes

Wednesday

Classes: 80 minutes
Advisory: none

Minimum Day Schedule	
Period	
1	8:30 - 9:20
2	9:25 - 10:15
4	10:20 - 11:10
5	11:15 - 12:00
Lunch	12:00 - 12:30

Final Exam Schedule	
Period	
1 or 4	8:30 - 10:10
Break	10:10 - 10:15
Passing	10:15 - 10:20
2 or 5	10:20 - 12:00
Lunch	12:00 - 12:30

EXPECTATIONS

If a student wishes to enroll and remain at America's Choice High School, he/she must follow these are the expectations. Failure to comply with the America's Choice Expectations will result in disciplinary action as specified in the back of this student handbook.

ACADEMIC – As a college prep school, any grade below a “C” is unacceptable. Students having a cumulative grade point average (GPA) in core classes below a 2.0 will be put on academic probation and expected to continuously improve until they reach a minimum GPA of a least 2.00.

ATTENDANCE – To be a successful student, a 95% attendance rate over the school year is expected. This allows for no more than 9 absences from the first day of classes in August to the last day of classes in June. Tardies interrupt the classroom climate and deprive the late student of instructional time and are therefore not tolerated. Every 4 tardies equal 1 absence. Parents have three days to excuse an absence. After the 3rd day an unexcused absence becomes truancy.

BEHAVIOR – ACHS has a zero tolerance policy for drugs, alcohol, gang-related activities, and violence. Continued participation in any of these activities may result in the immediate dismissal from the school. Inappropriate language including profanity, racial slurs, and sexual innuendos will also not be tolerated. Students are expected to act respectfully towards staff, peers, and the school.

DRESS CODE – Students will wear their school shirt 5 days a week. The school logo must be visible at all times and shirts may not be altered in any way.

CITIZENSHIP – Students are expected to be good citizens. They are expected to model and promote human dignity, show respect, sensitivity and care toward themselves, staff and students regardless of race, gender, disability, physical characteristics, ethnic group, language, sexual preference, age, national origin, or religion. ACHS students respect authority, property, and the rights of others; they avoid confrontation and any activity that has the potential to cause a verbal or physical conflict. Students maintain standards of integrity and responsibility, a safe school environment; and report any and all information/circumstances related to impending issues, problems (fights, weapons, or drugs on campus).

STUDENT'S RIGHTS – As a student, you have the right to learn in a safe environment; and discuss issues, concerns, and progress with your administrators, teachers, or other staff members

POLICIES

CLOSED CAMPUS – A district-wide closed campus policy for high schools has been adopted by the Sacramento City Unified School District. In the event a student leaves campus during the school day without permission, parents will be notified and the appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

COMPUTER LAB – At no time is food or drink allowed in the computer lab. Any student found “hacking” into blocked web sites, viewing inappropriate material on the internet, changing the defaults of the computer, damaging the equipment, removing parts, or otherwise modifying or changing the computer will be immediately removed from the computer lab and no longer allowed to use school computers.

EMERGENCIES – Emergency situations can involve fire, explosion, bomb threat or other type of situation that may require evacuation. Since it is not possible to know in advance whether the evacuation is for an actual emergency, each one is to be treated as if it were.

GRADING POLICY – The grading system exists to inform parents and students regarding achievement in each particular subject. Grades are issued at the end of each semester and are recorded on the students’ official transcripts. ACHS does not consider a grade of “D” passing for any college preparatory course. If a “D” or “F” is earned the course must be retaken.

HOMEWORK POLICY – It is the policy of the Board of Education that homework should be assigned to all students on a regular basis appropriate to the objectives of the course and the achievement levels of the students. The teacher is to assess the quality of the homework periodically and to include it in the determination of the students’ academic grades. Each teacher will provide a course syllabus with their specific homework policy. Homework will be assigned 3 times a week in each class.

MEDICATION – At no time are over-the-counter or prescribed medications to be taken by any student without a doctor’s written consent form. All medication must be kept in the office and dispensed by ACHS staff *only*.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS – Students are strongly advised to obtain backpacks in which to carry their school materials and personal belongings. ACHS is not be responsible for lost or damaged items including, but not limited to, cell phones, CD players, money, books, and so forth.

SCHOOL DAY – Students will remain at school from the beginning of their first period class through their last assigned class. Those students participating in off-campus classes or programs will have passes authorizing their departure at a specific time. Students will be issued early dismissals when verified by the school with the parent or

guardian. Additionally, during school hours, students will be allowed on campus during their scheduled class time only.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES – Students are financially responsible for loss or theft of or damage to any and all ACHS property, including, but not limited to, books and computer components.

SATURDAY SCHOOL – Saturday School is held from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Students must report **on time** and be present for the **entire time**. Partial attendance does not meet Saturday School obligation. Work is assigned for the day. This is not considered a no-work day. Records are kept and placed in the student's file. All students attending Saturday School must notify an administrator **in advance** if they cannot attend. If an assigned Saturday School is missed, with an acceptable excuse, the missed day must be made up. For consequences for unexcused missed Saturday School, see the Student Discipline Guidelines.

DETENTION – Detention is issued at each teacher's discretion for a specified time before or after school only.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE – The Search and Seizure Policy governs the district's authority to search individual students and their property. School officials may search to uncover evidence that a student is violating the law or the rules of the district or school when there is a reasonable suspicion.

SUSPENSION – Suspension is the removal of a student, from the classroom for disciplinary reasons for a defined period of time by a teacher or a school administrator. A principal or a designee may suspend the student from school for up to five consecutive days. A teacher may suspend the student for the remainder of the class in which the misbehavior occurred and for the next day's class. A suspension may be extended under certain conditions. There are two kinds of suspensions: on-campus suspension and out-of-school suspension. Students placed on out-of-school suspension are not permitted on or near any Sacramento City Unified School District campus, nor are they allowed to participate in any school activities, during the period of suspension. They may, however, be required to complete assignments and tests which will be made available to them through an intermediary.

EXPULSION – Expulsion is the removal of a student from all schools in the Sacramento City Unified School District for violating the California Education Code as ordered by the Board of Education. The expulsion is for a defined period of time but an application for re-admission must be considered within a specified time period. State law provides for full due process and rights to appeal any order of expulsion. State law mandates the Board of Education expel students for:

- possession, sale, or furnishing of a firearm;
- brandishing a knife;
- sale of drugs;
- committing or attempting to commit sexual assault or battery;

- sale, possession, use, or under the influence of alcohol;
- possession of explosives.

California Education Code requires a school administrator to recommend expulsion if a student commits one of the following offenses:

- causing serious physical injury to another person except in self defense;
- possession of any knife, explosive, or other dangerous object of no reasonable use to the pupil;
- unlawful possession of any drug except for the first time offense of possession of not more than one ounce of marijuana;
- robbery or extortion; and
- assault or battery upon a school employee. A pupil shall not be disciplined, suspended, or recommended for expulsion unless the Superintendent, a designee, or principal of the school in which the student is enrolled determines the pupil has violated one or more parts of the Standards of Behavior. (Education Code 48900)

A pupil may be disciplined, suspended for a maximum of five consecutive days, or expelled for acts specified in the Standards of Behavior that are related to school activity or school attendance occurring at any district school or within any other school district, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- while on school grounds;
- while going to or coming from school;
- during the lunch period whether on or off campus;
- during, going to, or coming from, a school-sponsored activity.

THE ADVISORY PROGRAM

The advisory program provides students with a broad understanding of high school programs and opportunities including course study selections, club/activity participation, and resources for the students. This will include a review of graduation and community service requirements. Students will understand the requirements for post-secondary education and vocational studies. Students will be presented with strategies and information in the areas of conflict resolution and tolerance including: peer pressure, bullying, harassment, anger management, and enhancing personal self-esteem. Advisory will help supply students with study skills and learning strategies, and self assessment tools to determine learning styles, strengths and limitations, and career planning. It will also give students the knowledge, skills and abilities for success in the workplace.

America's Choice High School

My signature below indicates that I have read, understand, and agree to the stipulations put forth in the America's Choice Student Handbook. I further understand that as an ACHS student I am obligated to meet the academic, attendance, and behavior expectations in order to remain an America's Choice High School student.

Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

Evening Phone: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent's Daytime Phone: _____