

Taylor High School

Student / Parent Handbook

2019-2020

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Vision...

"Taylor ISD will be the district of choice as we pursue educational excellence."

Mission...

"Taylor ISD is preparing every student to compete in a global society through a premium educational experience and strong partnerships."

Core Values...

Relationships / Innovation / Passion / Excellence

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SECTION II: INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Topics in this section of the handbook contain important information on academics, school activities, and school operations and requirements. Take a moment with your child to become familiar with the various issues addressed in this section. It is conveniently organized in alphabetical order to serve as a quick-reference when you or your child has a question about a specific school-related issue. Should you be unable to find the information on a particular topic, please contact the campus at 512-352-6326.

ABSENCES/ATTENDANCE

See district handbook for detailed explanation of Absences and Attendance.

Absences & Extracurricular Activities

Students who miss class work for approved co-curricular or extracurricular activities have the same rights as absent students and have appropriate time to finish work.

Minimum School Day – Students must be in school or at a school sponsored activity for at least 4 hours in order to participate in or attend a school activity that day after school hours.

College Day – Juniors and Seniors are allowed to take two days to visit a post-high school education institution of their choice. College day absences (including attendance at college special events) must be approved in advance by the Principal. Students must be passing to be eligible. Juniors and Seniors shall be responsible for informing their teachers of their visitation date(s) and are required to bring verification from the institution visited.

Driver's License Attendance Verification

To obtain a driver's license, a student between the ages of 16 and 18 must provide to the Texas Department of Public Safety a form obtained from the school in which the student must meet the outlined criteria established by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The school counselor provides students and parent's information regarding academic programs to prepare for higher education and career choices. [See **Academic Counseling** on page 33.]

AWARDS AND HONORS

Academic Awards

The purpose of academic awards will be to encourage and recognize academic achievement. Awards will be given to Freshmen, Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors. In order to receive an award, a student must have an overall average of 93 percent or above in all courses, and must be taking three of the four basic subjects each semester (Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science). Language Arts will include these courses: English I, II, III, IV; Communication Applications; Journalism I, II, III; Journalism (Mallard); Latin I, II, III, IV; Spanish I, II, III, IV; Debate.

To be eligible for an academic award, a student must be taking a full academic load of four credits. Academic Awards shall be figured at the end of the fall semester. The awards shall be presented at the annual Awards Assembly in the spring.

National Honor Society

- **Membership:** Membership in the National Honor Society is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to continue to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, and character by which they are selected. Members of a National Junior Honor

Society at the middle school who move to high school do not automatically become members of the National Honor Society. Ninth graders are not eligible for membership in the National Honor Society; membership is reserved for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

- Selection: Students may not apply for membership in the National Honor Society. Membership is granted only to those students selected by the faculty council. A student is eligible for consideration by the faculty council should he/she has earned a cumulative average grade of 90 or an average grade that can be rounded to a 90. At this point the selection process precedes as follows:
 1. Each eligible student is presented a letter requesting that the student present to the chapter advisor lists of his/her active memberships in at least three school, civic or church organizations and his/her involvement in at least two service projects within the last year on a Student Activity Information Form.
 2. From those students who respond by completing the Student Activity Information Form, a rating form is prepared containing the name of each eligible student. This form is presented to the faculty. Faculty members are asked to rate these students in terms of character, leadership and service on a scale of one to four. Faculty members may have these students in class, know them from the students' involvement in clubs and organizations, or have been involved with the student in the context of a school activity. A faculty member may also decline to rate one or more of the students on the form.
 3. Students who achieve a cumulative rating of 3.5 or better after the lowest rating in each category has been dropped are presented to the Faculty Council for final selection.
- Disciplining Members. **A member is never automatically dismissed** for failing to maintain standards. In order for a member to be dismissed, reprimanded or placed on suspension, a hearing must be conducted by the faculty council. Members should understand fully that they are liable for disciplinary action if they do not maintain the standards of scholarship, leadership, service, and character that were used as a basis of their selection. They should also be informed that they are allowed limited warnings during their membership, but that in the case of a flagrant violation of school rules or civil laws, a warning is not necessarily required for dismissal. **Furthermore, a student who is dismissed or who resigns may never again become an Honor Society member. For this reason, faculty councils should use dismissal sparingly.** Other acceptable disciplinary measures include:
 1. Letters of warning and/or reprimand.
 2. Suspension of chapter privileges of membership for a period of time.
 3. Request that the student receive special counseling.

The chapter adviser is responsible for the periodic review of standing members' compliance with National Honor Society standards. The adviser should inform the errant member in writing of the nature of the violation, the time period given for improvement, and the possible consequence of non-improvement. It is helpful to both student and the adviser to follow the letter with a conference. If the student does not make the improvement in the specified time, that student is liable for whatever disciplinary measures are considered appropriate by the faculty council.

Should it become necessary to convene a hearing to consider disciplinary action, the student will be notified in writing of the violation and the possibility of dismissal. A parent/guardian may be present with the member but the primary focus of the hearing should be to allow the member to present his or her case. If a member is dismissed, written notice of the decision should be sent to the member, his or her parents and the principal. The member must then surrender the NHS emblem and membership card to the chapter adviser. If the student is unwilling to do this, the matter should be treated as a school disciplinary matter.

The dismissed member may still appeal, under the rules that govern disciplinary appeals in the Taylor Independent School District following the normal channels for an appeal process. The National Council and the NASSP shall not hear or make any decisions regarding appeals in dismissal cases.

Silver Cord

Taylor High School, in an effort to provide students with opportunities to develop to their fullest potential and to become valuable contributors to society, initiated the Silver Cord Service Program. It is our belief that students who interact positively within their community not only will benefit the community but also will develop their own leadership and citizenship skills. To encourage and reward volunteerism and

community service, the Silver Cord program will recognize students who each year who have made significant contributions to the community through their service.

Seniors who have completed a minimum of 160 hours of approved service during their four years at THS will be awarded a silver cord and will be recognized during the graduation commencement ceremony. While it is suggested and highly encouraged that students complete 40 hours of approved service each year to reach the 160 total hours, students may accumulate their 160 hours in varying amounts during their four years at THS. Additionally, underclassmen that attain a minimum of 40 hours of approved service during a school year will be awarded a certificate and will be honored during the annual Spring Awards Assembly.

A log of student completion of approved service activities will be maintained for all students by an assigned staff member. To constitute an approved area of service the following criteria must be met:

- The approved service hours must be attained during non-school time.
- The approved service hours must be completed for non-pay.
- The approved service hours from any one project or area may not exceed more than 40 hours.
- The approved service hours must be approved by the faculty advisor before being undertaken.
- The approved service hours must be submitted to the advisor with appropriate documentation.

For any student interested in being a part of this program or for more information please contact John Matthews who works with Taylor I.S.D. Family Services at 352-3910.

Superintendent's Scholars

Taylor ISD and the Superintendent of Schools will recognize students annually based on high academic performance each semester of the current school year.

The Superintendent's Scholar requirements must include all of the following:

1. To be eligible, each semester, the recipient must be enrolled in four of the classes listed below, of which two shall be upper level courses (Pre-AP, AP, Dual Credit). Upper classmen may be eligible for an exception if they have met the graduation requirements in prior semesters referenced in the chart below.
2. Each recipient must qualify in the four "select" classes with at least a 95 semester average in each regular class and a 90 (no points added) in each PAP, AP, or dual credit class. No six week grade lower than 85 is allowed in any class taken during the semester for which the student qualifies.
3. Each recipient must be in good standing at Taylor High School. A student with a disciplinary issue that results in an out-of-school suspension, an assignment to the Taylor Opportunity Center DAEP or an assignment to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) will be disqualified.
4. Qualified summer dual credit courses taken prior to the school year may be counted for the following year.
5. Calculations for the fall semester will be based on the semester average. Calculations for the spring semester will be based on grades available at the end of the 5th six week grading period and final grades received in May (end of year) for dual credit courses.

ENGLISH HISTORY MATHEMATICS SCIENCE LOTE

English I PAP English I	World Geography PAP World Geography	Algebra 1	Biology PAP Biology AP Biology	Spanish I Latin I ASL I
English II PAP English II	World History PAP World History AP World History	Algebra 2 PAP Algebra 2	Chemistry PAP Chemistry	Spanish II Latin II ASL II
English III AP English III	US History AP US History	Geometry PAP Geometry	Physics AP Physics	PAP Spanish III PAP Latin III ASL III
English IV AP English IV	Government AP Government Economics AP Economics	Pre-Calculus PAP Pre-Calculus AP Calculus AB Statistics Ind. Study in Math	Aquatic Science Anatomy & Phys Scientific R&D	AP Spanish IV AP Latin IV ASL IV

CLASS SCHEDULES

Taylor High School course selection for the upcoming school year begins in January. Students are asked to make their choices carefully. Teacher initiated schedule change requests must be made within the two weeks of the semester and be based on an academic rationale.

If a student wants to make a schedule change, the change must happen within the first two weeks of school. Students must complete a schedule change form that can be picked up in the counselor's office. The schedule change form must be signed by the student, parent, and principal before the change can be made by the counselor. Schedule changes may be denied. Extenuating circumstances may permit for changes to be made outside of this rule at the discretion of the principal.

Pre-AP and AP courses are intended to be rigorous and prepare students for passing the AP exam. Following these requirements will help prepare students for college readiness.

Students must sign up for 8 classes each semester with the following exceptions for Juniors and Seniors:

- Seniors who have passed all STAAR tests and who may have no less than 26 credits to graduate at the end of the Spring semester will be allowed to enroll in only 7 classes during their Senior year.
- Seniors who have not passed all STAAR tests may be assigned to mandatory STAAR tutoring sessions until they have passed all STAAR tests and may be enrolled in no fewer than 7 classes per semester.
- Seniors who need less than six credits to graduate, have passed all STAAR tests **AND** have an extenuating circumstance that would necessitate them working during part of the school day may fill out a request to attend a partial school day. This request will be reviewed by a panel made up of the high school principal, classroom teacher and a counselor. The official request will also include a statement outlining the financial need that the student has and why he/she needs to work during part of the school day. This request must be signed by both a parent and the student's employer.

- Juniors who have passed STAAR English I, STAAR English II, Algebra I, and Biology and who have sufficient credits may be allowed to only be enrolled in 7 classes during their Junior year.
- While on campus during school hours, students will be in class or under teacher supervision. Students not supervised and without Administration's permission to be in common areas will be subject to disciplinary action as truant.

CLOSED CAMPUS DURING LUNCH

Taylor High School has a closed campus during lunch. Students are not allowed to leave the campus for lunch, and students that go off campus during lunch will be subject to disciplinary consequences. Parents are allowed to pack student lunches or can bring lunch to the school for their child only. Students that are caught eating a lunch provided by anyone other than their Parent or Guardian will have that lunch confiscated. Parents that bring lunch to the school will need to check in at the office, and then will be allowed to walk the lunch down to the cafeteria.

Students are not allowed to have food in the classroom or any other area other than the cafeteria during their assigned lunchtime. The only exceptions will be with Principal's approval. Party foods such as cupcakes, cookies or brownies are not allowed.

COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES

Dual Credit courses enable a high school student to take college course(s) for both high school and college credits or for college credit only. Students are able to take these classes during the school day, in the evening, or during the summer at local community colleges. In addition, students may also be awarded credit toward high school graduation for completing a college-level course in an accredited college or university that is not in a partnership program with the District.

To be eligible to get credit for college courses a student must:

1. Complete an application packet for dual credit (must have Taylor High School counselor's signature).
2. Provide an official copy of the THS transcript showing state standardized test results.
3. Provide TSI scores or show exempt status (Temple College offers TSI waived certificate programs that do not require TSI test scores.)
4. Be enrolled as a student at THS.
5. Upon graduating from THS, students must provide Temple College and/or TSTC with an official high school transcript in order to complete their admissions file so that transcript can be sent to other colleges.

Assemblies

Taylor High School students will demonstrate courteous behavior in school assemblies. Students will be expected to be quiet and attentive to the person(s) presenting the program. Appropriate and respectful behavior is expected. Shouting, inappropriate laughter, calling students' names, or any other rude, disrespectful or disruptive noises, actions or comments will result in the student being removed from the assembly, disciplinary action, and assembly privileges being revoked.

Pre-Advanced Placement and Advanced Placement Courses

Pre-Advanced Placement (PreAP) and College Board Advanced Placement (AP) courses are designed to prepare students for college level work and for the Advanced Placement Exams that give students the opportunity to receive college credit. **Students enrolled in an Advanced Placement course, who have earned a grade of 80 or better, are strongly encouraged to take the Advanced Placement Exam for that subject.** The College Board 2020 exam fee is anticipated to cost \$92.00 per exam. College Board allows school districts to apply for a fee reduction waiver for those students who qualify for free/reduced lunch. All other students will be required to pay the full price for each exam. To offset the full cost,

Taylor ISD will contribute funds to assist with the cost of the exam for the 2019-2020 school year. Students should contact the school counselor for more information and to register for AP exams in March.

Typically, successful PreAP and AP students are task oriented, proficient readers, able to prioritize their time and have parental support for the advanced level of work they are expected to accomplish. AP courses are different from the regular high school courses in that they are taught with college-level curricula and with college-level texts and materials. Final exam exemptions for AP courses will be based on the process outlined in the Student Handbook that applies to all courses.

Students in PreAP and AP classes who make a grade below 70 for the first six weeks may be required to have a conference with the counselor and the teacher to discuss strategies for success in the AP program. At the end of the first six weeks, students who have made a grade below 70 for the second time may be removed from the PreAP or AP class.

DRESS AND GROOMING

If a student wears inappropriate clothing and a parent is unavailable or cannot provide a change of clothing in a timely manner, the student will change into appropriate clothing if available from the front office or go to ISS for the day.

- **Females: The neckline of a shirt/top/dress must touch** the upper chest along its entire edge. The back of shirt must cover the student's lower back when the student is seated. Shoulder straps must be at least 2 inches wide.
- **Males:** All shirts must have sleeves, and all buttons, except the top collar button, must be buttoned. **Shirts extending below the fingertips must stay tucked in.**
- Regular earrings may be worn in the ears. Jewelry/accessories will be free of pointed parts. Necklaces/ chains will be of normal length /weight. No piercings, or look-alike piercings, beyond the ears; no plugs, gauges, extra large earrings, spike earrings, etc. in the ears. Covered piercings are prohibited.
- **Dresses, skirts, and shorts must be 2-inches above the knee or longer**
- **The crotch of a garment must be worn higher than mid thigh.** Belts are to be worn at the waist with the end of belt through the belt loops. No sagging or over-sized pants. No pants, shorts, skirts with see-thru holes or rips above the fingertips.
- Students must wear shoes and laces must be tied. All shoes must have a manufactured back as part of the shoe.
- Students will keep their heads uncovered inside the building. The only exceptions are in situations where health code regulations and religious observances apply. Sunglasses must be put up inside building.
- Students' clothing and bodies should be free of writing and/or drawings in ink and/or marker.
- Visible tattoos are not permitted.
- Students must have the appropriate school ID on their person, while on campus. Students must bring their IDs to school functions. Students will be required to pay to replace defaced or damaged IDs for a \$5 charge.
- Official fatigues, camouflage clothing or military style combat clothing are not permitted; however, students may wear one piece of camouflaged clothing at a time.
- Dress will be neat, clean and modest. No unusual colors, styles, or accessories are allowed e.g. pink hair, Mohawks and Fauxhawks over 2 inches, "carved" designs, shower caps, combs, hair picks, or long bangs.

- The District **prohibits any pictures, emblems or writing on clothing that are lewd, offensive, vulgar, violent, obscene, Confederate flags, or that advertise or depict tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and drugs.** This also applies to all of a student's possessions, e.g. backpacks and binders. Undergarments will not be visible.
- Clothing and accessories, as well as manners of dress, associated with unauthorized groups are not permitted. Examples include bandanas, colored shoestrings (red or blue), pants rolled tight at the ankle, towels or T-shirts thrown over the shoulder or neck.
- Chains or chain wallets are not allowed
- Ankle monitors must be covered.
- School administration will have final say on dress code policy.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS, AND ORGANIZATIONS

Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right.

Eligibility for participation in many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing inter-district competition. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class (other than an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course) or an honors or dual credit course in English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or a language other than English—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks.
- A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to 10 absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of 5 absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of 2 absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the board, are subject to these restrictions.
- An absence for participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence.

Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, drill team, and/or athletic teams may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the ***Student Code of Conduct*** or by local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization's standards of behavior.

[For further information, see policies at FM and FO.]

Offices and Elections

Club Officers – Limitations on Elected Positions

In order to ensure that students are able to carry out student club/organization officer positions with quality, the following limits have been established:

- 1) A student may serve as president of no more than two student clubs/organizations; and

- 2) May hold no more than four student clubs/organizations officer positions (any rank combination).

Groups, Organizations, & Clubs – Student Conduct

Student clubs and performing groups such as band, choir, dance, academic, cheerleader, and athletic teams may establish additional rules of conduct and consequences for behavior that are stricter than those for students in general. These rules must be approved by the principal. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequence specific to the school shall apply in addition to consequences specific to the organization. No school organization or out-of-school organization may have initiation activities or haze students.

Athletic Program

Athletics is a means by which students can express their physical and mental talents and contribute to the school community. The Athletics Program plays a vital part in the cultivation of school spirit and individual student success—both in the classroom and on the field. Students interested in participating in athletics are encouraged to visit with any one of our Taylor High School coaches. Athletes, please remember that you are a student first and must maintain eligibility in order to play any sport in TISD. The Athletic Director’s office is located at Taylor High School.

Homecoming King, Queen, and Court

The process for the selection of the Homecoming King, Queen and Court established by the Student Senate are as follows:

Nomination Process

- Each club will be allowed to nominate one senior girl and one senior boy as their nominees for Homecoming Queen and King.
- Each club will send the name(s) of its nominee(s) to the Student Senate Advisors one calendar week before Homecoming.
- If a club does not have a senior girl and /or a senior boy, that club may not make a nomination for Homecoming Queen and/or King.
- If a student is nominated by more than one club, those clubs will allow no alternate nominations.
- The Senior Class will also nominate one girl and one boy as their nominees for Homecoming Queen and King by a popular vote.
- A minimum of eight (8) girls and eight (8) boys will be required for the nominees for Homecoming Queen and King. In the event that eight girls and eight boys are not nominated by the procedure described above, the nominees will be filled by those students earning the next highest vote totals from the Senior Class nomination ballot so that there are eight girls and eight boys rounding out the list of nominees.
- Each club will determine their own manner of selecting candidates for Homecoming Queen and King.

Selection of Homecoming Queen and King

- The Homecoming Queen will be selected by popular vote of the entire student body from the nominees. The Homecoming Queen will be the girl nominee receiving the most popular votes.
- The Homecoming King will be selected by popular vote of the entire student body from the nominees. The Homecoming King will be the boy nominee receiving the most popular votes.

Underclassman Court

- The Freshman Class will elect a Princess and Prince by popular vote. The Freshman Class Princess and Prince will be from the Freshman Class and must be a first year freshman.
- The Sophomore Class will elect a Princess and Prince by popular vote. The Sophomore Class Princess and Prince will be from the Sophomore Class and must be a first year Sophomore.
- The Junior Class will elect a Princess and Prince by popular vote. The Junior Class Princess and Prince will be from the Junior Class and must be a first year junior.

Students in Good Standing

All students selected to represent Taylor High School in honorary positions such as the Homecoming Court and the Prom King and Queen must be students in good standing. A student with a disciplinary issue that results in the student receiving an out-of-school suspension (one to three days), an assignment to the Taylor Alternative Learning Center (TALC) or an assignment to the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) will be disqualified.

Letter Jacket Requirements

Students may earn a letter jacket in the following extracurricular activities:

- Athletics
- Band
- Choir
- U. I. L. Academic Competition
- One-Act Play
- Academic Decathlon
- Special Olympics
- Career and Technology Competitions
- Cheerleading
- Hi-Steppers

Students may be presented with only one (1) letter jacket during his/her entire high school career. Students may purchase additional patches that indicate the event and level of competition with the approval of the coach, sponsor and/or the U.I.L. coordinator.

The eligibility criterion to receive a letter jacket varies with the different sports. See the Athletic Handbook for the specific requirement for each sport.

The criteria for lettering in Band and Choir are as follows:

1. A student must be a senior band/choir member in good standing, and,
2. A student must participate at all band/choir activities designated by the director (football games, sectionals, concerts, clinics, contests, unless excused by the director), and,
3. A student must maintain a “B” average during the school year in band/choir, and,
4. A student must have no citizenship grade less than satisfactory (“S”) in band/choir, and
5. Any student earning a chair in the ATSSB or TMEA All-State Band/Choir, or receiving a Division I rating (superior) on a memorized Class I solo or ensemble at the U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Contest will automatically letter.

The criteria for U.I.L. Academic Competition is as follows: Any student who advances to compete at the Regional level of competition is eligible to receive a letter jacket. In addition, any student who has participated in U.I.L. Academic District competition in at least three (3) U.I.L. Academic events at the District level within two (2) years will be eligible to receive a letter jacket for U.I.L. participation.

The criteria for U.I.L. One-Act Play Competition are as follows: Students participating in the U.I.L. One-Act Play are varsity members of the Taylor High School theater department. Students participating as a Company member (cast, crew, or alternate) of the U.I.L. One-Act Play will receive a jacket (or patch if jacket has previously been awarded) for two years of

participation. Advancing to UIL State OAP is an automatic jacket or patch for participating Company members (cast, crew, or alternate).

The criteria for lettering in Academic Decathlon and Destination Imagination is as follows: Any student who is a member of the Academic Decathlon or Destination Imagination team and participates at the Regional, State and/or National level shall be eligible to receive a letter jacket (or patch if a letter jacket has previously been awarded).

The criteria for lettering in one of the Career and Technology organizations (DECA, HOSA, FFA, BPA, VICA) is as follows: Any student who competes two years at the district or area level or who competes at the state and/or national level will be eligible to receive a letter jacket.

The criteria for lettering in Hi-Steppers is as follows: Any student who competes as a Hi-Stepper for at least one year and remains in good standing is eligible to receive a letter jacket at the beginning of the junior year. Students, who compete as a Hi-Stepper only during their senior year and remain in good standing, become eligible for a letter jacket at the end of the Fall Semester.

The criteria for lettering in Cheerleading are as follows: Any student who competes as a Varsity Cheerleader and/or on the Competition Squad for one year and remains in good standing is eligible to receive a letter jacket. Students who compete as a Cheerleader only during their senior year and remain in good standing become eligible for a letter jacket at the end of the Fall Semester.

Student Senate

The Taylor High School Student Senate's purpose is to establish and maintain a line of communication between students, faculty, and administration. The Senate shall also coordinate all school and club activities in order to promote a well-balanced program. These activities include all elections, the Homecoming festivities, selection of class favorites and the crowning of the Homecoming king and queen.

The Senate shall be composed of four representatives, two boys and two girls, elected by the students from each class. Presidents of all classes and clubs shall automatically be members of the Senate. The Senate shall be organized as soon as possible during the beginning weeks of the school year. Senators should have membership for that school year. The Senators' grades should comply with the U.I.L. rules. A senator who fails to maintain appropriate grades will be allowed the opportunity to re-establish their status within the next three weeks. Failure to regain eligibility would result in suspension and his/her replacement. All Senators will sign and abide by the Code of Conduct.

The Student Senate officers shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Reporter, and Parliamentarian. The election of all officers shall be held at the end of the school year. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, and are open to students and faculty. Senators missing two meetings without a valid excuse will receive a warning from the Parliamentarian. Should the member miss one more meeting without a valid excuse, the member shall be removed from the Senate and replaced by someone chosen by the members of his class or club.

Make Up Procedures For All Failing Grades

Please See District Handbook

Late Work Guidelines

Please See District Handbook

EXEMPTION POLICY –END OF YEAR EXAM

*All students will be required to take the first semester exams and there are not any exemptions for those exams. **However, students can be exempt from taking the end of year exams.***

A student shall not be exempted from taking the end of year examination in any class unless he/she meets school requirements and completes the Exemption Request Form. Seniors may exempt 7 exams per year; juniors may exempt 4 exams per year.

Exemption criteria:

- 1) 80-84 average with no more than one absence, excused (A) or unexcused (U) from that class.
- 2) 85-94 average with no more than two absences, excused (A) or unexcused (U) from that class.
- 3) 95-100 average with no more than three absences, excused (A) or unexcused (U) from that class.

Other regulations regarding exemptions:

1. Exemptions are not allowed for any student who has been suspended 3 days in a row or assigned to the Taylor Opportunity Center during the second semester of school, or for any student who is assigned to In School Suspension during the last six weeks of school for two or more days.
2. Co-curricular and extra-curricular absences will not count as exemption absences.
3. A student who has surpassed the allowable number of absences may not do make-up hours to attain eligibility.
4. Four tardies within a six-week period of time in a particular class will count as one absence for exemption purposes in that class.
5. The cut-off for determining grades will be announced by the office usually five to seven days prior to the first day of semester exams. A student may lose eligibility, however, even after being declared exempt if he/she fails to maintain the required grade average, attendance or discipline requirements.
6. Students eligible for exam exemptions must submit their exemption forms to the office by the appropriate deadline. A list will then be distributed to teachers. Only students who have notified the office two days prior will be allowed the exemption privilege. Late forms will not be accepted.
7. An administrator may withdraw an exemption privilege if a student violates the student code of conduct prior to the exam.
8. For exemption purposes, absences due to medical appointments that appear on the official attendance records as an absence will NOT be counted as an absence for exemption consideration (Medical = M, Doctor = D). These notes must be coded within 3 days of the original absence.
9. Students who have not turned in laptops or textbooks for specific courses will not be able to exempt those finals.

Eligibility Requirements Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations

Eligibility for participation in many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing inter-district competition. The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- Eligibility at the beginning of the year will be based on being promoted from a lower grade.
- A student who receives at the end of a grading period a grade below 70 in any academic class—other than a class identified as honors or advanced by either the State Board of Education or by the local Board of Trustees—may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks. Students determined ineligible at the end of a regular grading period may regain their eligibility at the end of a three week grading period plus seven calendar days. To regain eligibility at the three-week interval a student must be passing all subjects including the one causing him/her to be ineligible.
- A student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the individualized education program (IEP) may not participate for at least three school weeks.
- Ineligible students may practice with the team, but must not travel with or participate in UIL competition or public performance until they are declared eligible according to UIL rules and regulations.

Extracurricular Activities Suspension Waiver

A student may be exempt from a suspension from participation in extracurricular activities due to failure to earn a grade of 70 or more in a College Board Advanced Placement course or high school/college concurrent enrollment course and/or district designated honors courses. This provision is provided in the Texas Education Code 33.081© and (d) which states the following:

“A student who is enrolled in a school district in this state and who participates in a University Interscholastic League competition shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district or the University Interscholastic League after a grade evaluation period in which the student received a grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class other than an identified honors or advanced class. A suspension continues for at least three weeks and is not removed during the school year until the conditions of Subsection (d) are met. . . . The principal and each of the student’s teachers shall make the determination concerning the student’s grades.”

Students are limited to two waivers per semester per class. All College Board Advanced Placement courses and International Baccalaureate courses, and high school/ concurrent enrollment classes that are included in the “Community College Academic Course Guide Manual (Part One)” in the following disciplines are the classes identified as advanced by the State Board of Education:

- English Language Arts
- Fine Arts including AP Art
- Languages Other than English, Levels IV – VII
- Mathematics including Trigonometry, Elementary Analysis, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Linear Algebra, Statistics
- Science including AP Biology, AP Chemistry, and AP Physics
- Social Studies including U. S. History, American Government and Politics, Macro-Economics

In addition, Taylor I. S. D. has designated the following courses as honors courses for which a student may receive a waiver.

- Pre-Advanced Placement English I and English II
- Pre-Advanced Placement Languages Other than English – Spanish III, Latin III

- Pre-Advanced Placement Mathematics – Algebra II, Geometry, Independent Study in Math, and Pre-Calculus
- Pre-Advanced Placement Social Studies – World Geography, World History and Advanced Social Studies I, II, III (Academic Decathlon)
- Pre-Advanced Placement Science – Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Mid-Year Graduation

Mid-year graduates may be considered for local scholarships awarded in the spring, provided they fill out the Local Scholarship Application form. All mid-year graduates may pick up their diplomas the 2nd week of January.

Summer Graduation

Students who graduate during the summer may be considered for local scholarships awarded in the Spring. All summer graduates may pick up their diplomas the 1st week of September.

Certificates of Coursework Completion

A certificate of coursework completion will not be issued to a senior student who successfully completes state and local credit requirements for graduation but fails to perform satisfactorily on the exit-level tests.

Graduation Activities

Graduation activities will include:

- Graduation Practice (required)
- Baccalaureate Ceremony (optional)
- Graduation Ceremony (required)

Graduation Expenses

Because students and parents will incur expenses in order to participate in the traditions of graduation—such as the purchase of invitations, senior ring, cap and gown, and senior picture—both student and parent should monitor progress toward completion of all requirements for graduation. The expenses often are incurred in the junior year or first semester of the senior year.

Standardized Testing

STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

(End of Course (EOC) Assessments for Students in Grades 9-12)

Beginning with 9th graders, End of Course (EOC) assessments will be administered for the following courses:

- English I, English II
- Algebra I
- Biology
- United States History

Satisfactory performance on the applicable assessments will be required for graduation.

A student who does not achieve the Recommended Level II score on any individual STAAR EOC assessment will be required to retake that assessment.

STAAR Alternate assessments, for students receiving special education services, will be available for eligible students, as determined by the student's ARD committee. These particular EOC assessments may have different testing windows than the general assessments, and the ARD committee will determine whether successful performance on the assessments will be required for graduation.

STAAR-L, which is a linguistically accommodated assessment, will be available for students who have been determined to be limited English proficient (LEP) and who require this type of testing accommodation per the student's LPAC committee.

Technology

It is important for students to develop appropriate and considerate habits concerning the use of electronics in today's society. With this in mind, Taylor High School wants students to learn good digital citizenship and etiquette.

Students will be issued an Apple MacBook at the beginning of each school year. The MacBook is property of Taylor Independent School District, and the student is 100% responsible for loss of, theft of, and/or damages to the computer. If a computer is lost due to neglect, the student will face disciplinary action.

For safety purposes, the district permits students to possess personal mobile telephones; however, these devices must remain turned off during the instructional day, including during all testing, unless they are being used for approved instructional purposes. A student must have approval to possess other telecommunications devices such as netbooks, laptops, tablets, or other portable computers. The use of mobile telephones or any device capable of capturing images is strictly prohibited in locker rooms or restroom areas while at school or at a school-related or school-sponsored event. If a student uses a telecommunications device without authorization during the school day, the device will be confiscated. The parent may pick up the confiscated telecommunications device from the principal's office for a fee of \$15.

Vehicles on Campus

Vehicles parked on school property are under the jurisdiction of the school. School officials may search any vehicle any time there is reasonable cause to do so, with or without the permission of the student. A student has full responsibility for the security and content of his or her vehicle and must make certain that it is locked and that the keys are not given to others. [See also the Student Code of Conduct.] If a vehicle does not have valid, current parking sticker or is parked illegally, that vehicle will be subject to tow at the owner's expense.

Special Education Referrals

A request for a special education evaluation may be made verbally; it does not need to be made in writing. Districts must still comply with all federal prior-written notices and procedural safeguard requirements as well as the requirements for identifying, locating, and evaluating children who are suspected of having a disability and in need of special education. However, a verbal request does not require the district to respond within the 15 school-day timeline.