April 2009

To Parents of UHS Seniors:

Commencement exercises for the Class of 2009 are just around the corner. We would like to take a few minutes of your time to share our expectations and provide information that will make the end of the year more enjoyable for our graduates and their families. Upland High School traditionally has enjoyed outstanding commencement ceremonies. We need your help to insure this tradition continues!

The behavior of the graduates is essential to the success of the commencement ceremony. It is important to show respect for the speakers and to provide them with an opportunity to be heard. It is also very important to allow each graduate the chance to have his or her name clearly heard by the audience and to have the recognition of receiving his/her diploma with everyone watching. Any behavior that distracts from the student or adult speakers or the presentation of the diplomas spoils the commencement for others. This is both a joyous and serious occasion; the time to celebrate is after the commencement ceremony.

Seniors’ clothing at the commencement ceremony also contributes to the atmosphere of the event. Girls should wear dresses and appropriate shoes. Sandals and tennis shoes are not appropriate. Due to the new artificial turf in Highlander Stadium flat shoes must be worn. (NO HEELS!) Boys are asked to wear dress slacks, shirt and dark dress shoes. Do not modify or add messages or writing to the graduation cap and gown. The wearing of any additional adornments such as lei’s, scarves, signs, jewelry, etc. will not be allowed. Doing so may jeopardize participation in the commencement ceremony.

We ask you, as parents, to discuss appropriate graduation behavior with your son or daughter. Also, please encourage your senior to wear the recommended clothing. With your help, the Class of 2009 will have a commencement that reflects the pride of all students, parents and guests. If your senior does not want to be a part of a dignified but joyous ceremony, please choose the option of not participating.

Over the years, a few Upland High School seniors have chosen to participate in pranks of one form or another in the weeks preceding graduation. Many pranks begin as humorous incidents. However, they frequently result in destruction of property, loss of instructional time, and general disruption of the instructional program. Most students avoid being involved in pranks, but all students need to be reminded not to participate in pranks. As parents, you can help by not tolerating school pranks. When incidents do occur, the consequences are very serious and range from loss of participation in graduation, suspension, expulsion, or possible arrest. The student and parents are always held financially responsible for restitution for damages or other costs.

The Upland Police Department has been advised that the campus is off limits to students between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. Students must stay off the Upland High School campus during those hours with the exception of Grad Night.
Attendance is always important for success in school. However, seniors frequently declare a “ditch day.” There is no authorized “ditch day.” Any such event causes lost instruction and can have a negative effect on grades. Students who are truant will not be allowed to make up assignments given or collected on the day of truancy. Other disciplinary action may occur when a student is truant such as after school detention and Saturday School.

During the fall and spring semesters, a counselor reviewed grades and credits with every senior. Counselors also informed parents of every senior who was in danger of not graduating. Any senior who participates in commencement must meet all graduation requirements set forth by the Upland Unified School District Board of Education. Requirements include a minimum of 230 credits within a prescribed course of study and successful completion of all mandated proficiency examinations. At this time of the year, some seniors think that nothing could go wrong and end up failing essential classes. It is a very unfortunate situation when a senior who was planning to graduate finds out that he or she has fallen short and can not participate. Please encourage your son or daughter to work hard for the remaining few weeks. If you have any concerns, please call your senior’s counselor. If all appears well academically, enjoy these last few weeks of the high school experience with your senior!

A copy of Key Dates and Activities for Seniors is included with this letter. If you have any questions about graduation activities, please call the Student Services Office at 949-7880, ext. 304. We look forward, as you do, to a great ending for this truly outstanding Class of 2009!

Sincerely yours,

Guy Roubian
Principal

Ben Rich
Principal

Attached: Key Dates and Activities for Seniors
Schedule of Events
Code of Conduct Form
Grad Night Information