

**Coffee with the Principal**

April 16, 2019

9:30am

Portable 20

Number of Parents in Attendance: 3 and 1 younger student

Ms. De La Garza wanted to review various items with parents to make parents aware in reference to attendance and things like that

**Attendance Policy**

Whether you are at a comprehensive high school or a semester school like us, students have to be present 90% of the time

For this semester there are 86 days of school, 8 days of school can be missed, combined excused or unexcused absences

When a student is absent for 3, 5, and 7 days, letters are sent home

When they get to 5 days, the data clerk informs the administration and they contact parents

We want to prevent 8 days of absences

After 8 days, students can risk getting loss of credit

Every absence is 30 mins of make-up hours

How can they make up the time? After school or in the morning, they can work on assignments in the front office

DACC is different, there is a completely different attendance policy

They must refer to syllabus, it may be 3 or 4 days and they could possibly be dropped from the course

It is up to the instructor and students should contact them in reference to absences and make up work

At our school, students must be in attendance 90% of school days for each semester.

Say a student is absent 12 times and hasn't made up the hours, they are put on an attendance contract, there is a deadline to make up the hours and if student doesn't make up those hours they will receive a loss of credit

Students must be passing that class in order to make up the hours

We don't have that problem here because of DACC classes

We have good attendance, possible the best attendance in the district and students want to come to school

Missing one day is so much work so students are motivated to come daily

When students become seniors they must be here every Friday and it does impact their GPA because Senior Seminar is mandatory

When NMSU comes in November for registration, Ms. De La Garza gives them current transcripts for scholarships, depending on the updated GPAs later on in the year, their scholarship amounts may go up or down or lose the scholarship altogether

During Senior Seminar students fill out scholarships, university applications, portfolio, resume, accomplishments, awards, transcripts, letters of rec, cover letters

There is an internship program for juniors on campus

When juniors become seniors they are at the Gadsden Center

10th and 11th graders are being monitored on CANVAS by the administrators and that is why those grades have been showing on the progress reports

Ms. De La Garza is asking junior parents to help her with monitoring grades on CANVAS

Ms. Reza (parent) can share with us how to see the parent view of CANVAS

We need to know before it is too late and nothing can be done to improve grades

Parent suggested students learn how to manage their money/bookkeeping

Ms. De La Garza explained that Ms. Swaim taught the research class to juniors this year

That class reviewed budgets, income tax, costs of living alone such as gas, apartment, car payment, insurance, etc.

These students really have an idea of how expensive it is to live independently

One parent stated that her child refused to grow up, instead of driving they'd rather take a bus

Another parent is teaching their child that every time you spend money you track it on the ledger, students think the money is a never ending supply

Another parent mentioned how they used to go out to eat twice a week, now it's not even once a week, once you add it up it is expensive

Another parent: We can spend \$80 on going out to eat or buy lots of groceries

Ms. De La Garza states that we need to find a way for all students to learn that information

Ms. De La Garza states that we need to find a way for all students to learn that information

Curriculum for Government was approved: the DACC government class has the same standards as the high school government class

Students will attend the DACC government class and receive their high school credit as well

There is only 1 class open at DACC Gadsden Center in the fall

If it is open in the spring, students can take it then or we have it built in here at AVECHS

Students will have to come Monday through Friday, how we did it last year if they cannot take it at DACC

Parent asked if students can attend the Las Cruces Center and they are approved to attend the Espina or the Sonoma Ranch centers

In the past they were only allowed at the Gadsden Center or Sunland Park Center

Some students can attend in Las Cruces depending on where they live

That's all she has for today

Questions:

What's going to happen if students didn't pass one of the Accuplacer tests?

They have to wait 30 days to retest

The first test they took was free, the second time they have to pay \$12.50 per test

Last year, Ms. Swaim took students in the suburban to the Gadsden Center for their second time testing, since it is still during the school year

If they fail again, they have to wait another 30 days, pay again, and parents have to take them to DACC to test because it is the summertime

One parent walked in

If parents don't take the students to take the test, they will get behind in their degree plan

Parent asked how do we schedule the Accuplacer?

You call the DACC testing center directly and set that up

Accuplacer tests are required for English 111 or Math 120

One parent asked if students can go into a higher course for math and English depending how well they did on the Accuplacer

Ms. De La Garza asked before and the recommendation was for all students to enter Math 120, because it is such a difficult course, but she will ask again

One parent shared that students can get an NMSU ID at the Barnes and Noble on campus, on the second floor

The first time is free, if it is lost, the fee is \$25

Students must present their high school ID or other forms of ID (birth certificate, driver's license, state ID) to get it

#### School Safety Initiative

Mr. Dempsey wanted for all students to have an ID at the high school level

District Student Leadership Team wanted to make sure students have them, CHS and AVECHS are the 2 high schools who are following the initiative at this time

One parent mentioned that on Fridays students get 25% off at Barnes and Noble with their student ID

#### Concerns or Questions

A parent asked what happens if a student is struggling with their computer class? Ms. De La Garza said they could see if it is available in the summer for students to retake it

Potential Coffee with the Principal idea on how to navigate which classes are available to take through DACC/NMSU and how to enroll/drop classes

Ms. De La Garza teaches students how to do it when they come to her office for that reason

The DACC/NMSU catalogue of classes is still available but it is also online

Ms. De La Garza wants to help students be their own advocate

She helps them but they have to learn how to do it on their own

When they get to NMSU they won't have very many people to help them because you are on your own

Ms. De La Garza wants to promote independent navigation, students need to know where to go for help

One parent mentioned the benefits of visiting main campus and how her student feels more exposed to NMSU

One parent asked about the school calendar, the high schools and elementaries are half day, are we half day?

Our last day is the 22nd, we don't have half days due to bussing

This Friday (April 19th) students are off, because DACC and GISD have the day off for Spring Holiday

Hopefully with the new GISD 2019-2020 calendar Spring Breaks will match with GISD

When do DACC classes end? May 10th, teachers will keep them busy after the DACC classes

are over

Do they have to come in at 9:15am? Yes

What's the calendar for juniors for next year? One parent shared with another

Ms. De La Garza went to get the master schedule from her office

Juniors Schedule for next year:

Monday through Thursday-all day with DACC classes in the afternoon

Friday only morning-2 classes, students will be getting out at 11:52am

Fall: HS Chem, ACT Test Prep, DACC English 111, History, Math 120

Spring: DACC Chem, Academic Career Experience (budgeting), Math 121, Communication

Skills, Health

Spring may change

Spring: juniors take the ACT

What is that new class they talked about AP Chemistry?

It is chemistry but a little higher up and they can take the college board AP Test for college credit

It is still in the works but Ms. De La Garza thinks it is a good opportunity

No more Coffee with the Principal meetings this school year

Prom is April 27th and sophomores are welcome with parent permission, they have a form

It is a junior/senior prom

Students from other schools also need approval from their school's Assistant Principal

Graduation is Wednesday, May 22nd, 1st graduating class at the Magoffin Auditorium at UTEP at 6pm

22 students graduating

Former graduating classes graduated at each district high school but deserve more because they have worked so hard

It is a very nice auditorium

Last year 63 students graduated and 4 students with their Associate of Science and Criminal justice, in addition to the Associate of Arts

This year 1 is graduating with their Associate of Science/Criminal Justice, in addition to the Associate of Arts

The reason administration is monitoring grades is to increase the amount of students receiving their Associate of Arts

A parent asked if students have to pay to retake a class they have failed.

They do not have to pay if they fail a class and have to take it in the summer

Summer school at DACC is only if they don't pass, they cannot take extra classes during the summer

If the GISD warehouse doesn't have the books required for the summer courses, students have to buy the books themselves

Not all 22 graduating seniors are getting an Associates

They are a few credits short, but it isn't too late because they can finish their Associates in the fall after graduating from AVECHS

15 are getting their Associates

One parent said that's good, it's more than half.

A parent asked if juniors were allowed to enroll at AVECHS

Juniors cannot come into this school because they would be too far behind

4 sophomores have been accepted but it was stressful for them and they had not been too far behind based on the courses they had taken previously

Ms. De La Garza mentioned that we have a very nice amount for scholarships as a whole

Universities send students award letters and they inform Ms. De La Garza of the amounts

A parent asked when students receive an award letter, does admin get notified? Sometimes

Ms. De La Garza emphasized that students cannot/should not throw letters away without opening them or not open their emails

The scholarships range from \$40,000 to \$80,000

During Senior Breakfast students are recognized for their scholarship award amounts

1 student has been accepted to universities in Denver and Pittsburgh, she's going into engineering

Ms. De La Garza spoke about the familiarity and closeness of Denver and that the student decided on Denver because of her interest in the military as well

Parent: Even with Associates they go into the military as an officer

Ms. De La Garza mentioned that Chance Franco (a senior from last year) went to Westpoint and he spoke so encouraging to the freshman classes during his visit last month

He didn't want to be here and now he is so glad and thankful, it took him until his senior year to appreciate AVECHS

His parents made him come, military parents, very nice people

One 2018 graduate moved to Boston to attend Brown University, although none of the credits transferred, the college experience was there,

He said I know what it takes to be a college student

Ms. De La Garza mentioned how they grow up so much when they come back after graduation, even from one year to the next

Ms. De La Garza said I appreciate you guys coming every time

Parents said it is very informative, thank you for having it

Ms. De La Garza credited the secretary for being on the ball with everything and keeping her on target with keeping Coffee with the Principal scheduled and regular

The parents praised her for being new and amazing and said they would like her to stay until their children graduate

Last year Ms. De La Garza only did 2 Coffee with the Principals but this year was a great improvement

Dismissal Practices:

Gadsden. No one was on duty where there are parents pick up. teachers were ready to run out and there was no one there

They did have people monitoring the bus pick up area

Parents really like the monitoring for the parking lot and the progress reports every two weeks at AVECHS

Ms. De La Garza said it's because of DACC

Ms. De La Garza asked if parents are receiving School Messenger? Sunday was the last one about Coffee with the Principal and progress reports, parents said they were receiving them

The meeting concluded and Ms. De La Garza went over the topics that were missed by the parent who arrived a little bit late due to work

The meeting was approximately 1 hour long and concluded around 10:36am.