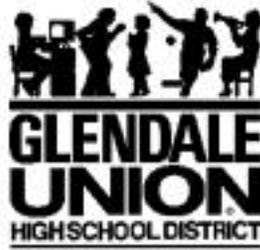


**THUNDERBIRD
HIGH SCHOOL**
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Brian Capistran

May 2016

Dear Students and Parents,

You are receiving this letter because you are registered for a class in the Fall of 2016 that is approved for Dual Enrollment!

Dual Enrollment (DE) is the opportunity to earn college credit from one of the Maricopa Community Colleges while taking classes at Thunderbird High School. The program is headed by Glendale Community College, and it offers high school students the chance to get a jump start on their college education. Students do not have to attend any additional classes or take any additional exams once enrolled in DE to earn college credit, but they do need to take the necessary steps to register and pay for the college classes should they choose to dually enroll.

All registration paperwork and course information will be provided to you during the first week of class in the Fall via each specific classroom teacher. This mailer is designed to help you decide whether or not to consider Dual Enrollment and, further, how to logistically tackle signing up this Fall. All included information should be read thoroughly to help you to understand all Dual Enrollment options, processes and timelines.

Whether to dually enroll or not is an individualized decision for each student and family. Some reasons to dually enroll include the lower cost of community college courses versus university courses, the extra help a high school environment has built in versus the sink-or-swim aspect of some courses in college, and the opportunity to not have to take the same class twice in one's academic career, once in high school and once in college. Conversely, some reasons to not dually enroll include the opportunity to receive course credit via AP tests rather than DE, the possibility of the course not transferring effectively to universities depending on students' majors, and planned high school courses to take in future years. Again, all information provided in this mailer is to help you make an informed family decision. If you have specific questions about DE and your family's specific situation and specific class, encourage your student to ask both his or her teacher and counselor in the Fall. Often, DE teachers have specific suggestions regarding their courses, and counselors are always available to help.

Enclosed Information to help you with Dual Enrollment includes:

- This letter with important timelines to follow
- A "Dual Enrollment Reference Sheet" with detailed information regarding all DE-eligible courses at THS and "Dual Enrollment: Placement Test" information on the back
- Dual Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) flyer

The courses THS offers for DE includes (in alphabetical order): AP Biology, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Literature, AP Spanish, AP US History, College Algebra, Culinary Arts 1-2, Health Career Education, Honors Pre-Calculus and Honors Spanish. Some of these course have a one-time registration in the Fall that counts for the whole, year-long course; others are available for registration in both the Fall and the Spring. The community colleges that award credit for these classes once a student registers for DE are Glendale Community College for Math, English, and Spanish, Gateway Community College for Science and History, and Estrella Community College for Health Careers and Culinary.

Specifics regarding course availability, pricing, credits, and more are included on the Dual Enrollment FAQ flyer.

Other specifics regarding course names and numbers, community college and university course equivalencies, registration times, and test scores needed in order to register are included on the Dual Enrollment Reference Sheet.

ONCE YOU'VE READ ALL INCLUDED INFORMATION AND DECIDED YES, DUAL ENROLLMENT IS THE WAY TO GO FOR ME!, then please follow these timelines to ensure a smooth registration process:

NOTE: If signing up for Math (minus AP Calculus BC) or English, students MUST take a placement test first. They can take the placement test at a number of Community Colleges at any convenient time for them over the summer (see the back of the Dual Enrollment Reference Sheet for times and locations) OR they can take the placement test on THS' campus on Wednesday, August 31, 2016 after school at 2:45pm in the main computer lab. See the deadlines below in order to test on THS' campus.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT

AUGUST 1:

If interested, tuition assistance available via the Maricopa Grant Application online at <http://www2.gccaz.edu/dual-enrollment>

AUGUST 17:

MANDATORY FOR THS PLACEMENT TESTERS ONLY

Deadline to apply for admission to CC in order to obtain 8-digit college ID number; see back of Dual Enrollment Reference Sheet (enclosed), "Steps for Testing," #1 for directions on how to complete this step.

AUGUST 19:

MANDATORY FOR THS PLACEMENT TESTERS ONLY

Deadline to bring 8-digit college ID # to THS and provide to Mrs. Colombo in order to be signed up for placement testing.

AUGUST 26:

If interested, tuition assistance- aka Maricopa Grant Application- DUE to the GCC DE office. No late applications accepted.

AUGUST 31:

FOR THS PLACEMENT TESTERS ONLY

Meet in the Main Computer Lab after school at 2:45pm to take the Math and/or English placement test.

SEPTEMBER 7:

Dual Enrollment Registration offered to ALL DE students on THS' campus in the Thunderdome from 8-9am.

NOTE- Students must have been admitted to CC, obtained 8-digit college ID #, and have taken any applicable placement tests in order to register at this time; see back of Dual Enrollment Reference Sheet (enclosed) for details. Students must bring a photo ID and printed test scores/transcripts with them to register.

SEPTEMBER 9:

Registration Deadline at GCC. No late registrations accepted.

SEPTEMBER 16:

Payment Deadline. Payments go directly to colleges either online or in-person. No late payments accepted.

For more information regarding DE, visit GCC's Dual Enrollment webpage at <http://www2.gccaz.edu/dual-enrollment> or call its Dual Enrollment office at 623-845-4821. Alternately, you can visit Thunderbird's website at thunderbird.guhsdaz.org and, under "Academics," visit the "Dual Enrollment 16/17" link. Feel free to contact Thunderbird's Counseling Center too at 623-915-8915. Plan to receive extensive information about DE once we return to school in the Fall.

Thanks and take care,

Lauren Colombo

Counselor and DE Coordinator, Thunderbird High School