

# Cinco Ranch High School 2011-12

## Frequently Asked Questions by Ninth Grade Parents

### *What is the PTSA?*

PTSA is the Parent Teacher Student Association. The organization and its members contribute in many areas. For example, the PTSA publishes the Student Directory, *Cougar Express* newsletter, and *Cougar Paws*. They sponsor the PTA Reflections contest, Junior Achievement, and award PTSA student scholarships to graduating seniors.

### **Mission Statement**

The Cinco Ranch High School Parent Student Teacher Association is a volunteer organization committed to the parents, teachers and students of CRHS and is dedicated to building various and effective means of communication to enhance these relationships. Our members strive to boost parent and student involvement and integration into our school and community and to support each aspect of CRHS through volunteer service, financial assistance, teacher appreciation, various student programs, and student scholarships.

### **CRHS PTSA is dedicated to:**

**Parents** - Through various means of communication we strive to welcome you into the spirit of CRHS and keep you informed of school functions and volunteer opportunities. We are a source of information and a voice in education related legislative issues.

**Teachers** – Through volunteer coordination, campus-wide financial support, building and grounds enhancement, and teacher/staff appreciation, we endeavor to lighten your load to allow you to fully dedicate your time to CRHS students.

**Students** - Through encouraging student involvement, assisting in student integration, and providing scholarships, we strive to contribute to the success of CRHS students.

**Association** – As education's booster club, the PTSA brings together parents, teachers, and students and acts as one voice in support of our school.

## ***How can I keep informed on the happenings at Cinco Ranch High School?***

- ❑ **First Day Packets.** Please read the wealth of information included in the first day packets. You will receive important information about district and school policies and procedures, the Katy ISD calendar and testing schedule, student clubs and organizations, the PTSA, Booster Clubs, and other volunteer opportunities. Note that some district rules are different from those enforced at the junior high level.
- ❑ **PTSA website.** [www.crhspsta.org](http://www.crhspsta.org) is the most inclusive source of information, containing the latest activities, important school announcements, and useful information about the PTSA with Links to CRHS, Booster Clubs, School Organizations, KISD, VIPS, and more.
- ❑ **CRHS Website.** <http://schools.katyisd.org/campus/crhs/> provides daily announcements, the KISD calendar, student volunteer opportunities, faculty and staff names with direct links to their email addresses, and a list of school clubs and sports teams.
- ❑ **Katy ISD eNews.** [www.eneews.katyisd.org](http://www.eneews.katyisd.org) is designed to provide campus information important to you and your family. In the future, we plan to use eNews to provide information about district-wide events as well. Best of all, your subscription will follow your children through grade level and campus changes. If you have not already done so, please register for eNews. Click on Sign Up. If you wish to modify your eNews Account or add a student to your eNews Account, click Log-in and then click on the Add a Student link or Add an Email Address link. CRHS webmaster is the Administrative AP Secretary, Anita Kuhlmann and she publishes eNews every Friday, which you will receive once you have registered. If you were registered previously to receive CougarENews, it is now necessary to register at [www.eneews.katyisd.org](http://www.eneews.katyisd.org).
- ❑ **The *Cougar Express*.** A newsletter jointly prepared by the PTSA and the school, and is distributed on-line.
- ❑ **Local newspapers and publications.**
- ❑ **The school marquee.** Posts useful information and upcoming events.
- ❑ **CRHS PTSA Student Directory.** Published annually, usually in late Fall.

### ***What options are available to contact the teachers?***

Teachers and administrators may be contacted by email or telephone. The campus website at <http://kisdwebs2.katyisd.org/katywebs/Default.aspx?tabid=36468> provides direct links to teacher email addresses, and email contact is frequently the easiest and most efficient way to communicate with the teachers.

CRHS has an automated telephone system to assist in directing callers to the appropriate area of the school for assistance. The direct number for the ninth grade center during school hours is 281-237-7090, where callers will have a menu of options to select from to reach various individuals or departments. The student directory lists the faculty telephone extension numbers and the automated system allows callers to leave voicemail messages. After hours, the main campus number 281-237-7000 will provide access to the teacher voicemail boxes.

### ***What is the purpose of "Lunch with the Principal" meetings?***

The purpose is to inform parents on various topics of interest. All parents are welcome to attend. The meetings are advertised on the PTSA website, in the local newspapers, on the school marquee, etc. The PTSA sponsors these meetings and believes this is an effective way of communicating information and giving parents an opportunity to ask questions. Dress code, the school report card, parking and traffic issues are some of the topics that have previously been discussed.

### ***Where do I park?***

There are VIPS and visitor parking spaces in front of the main entrance, in the first row next to the school, and outside the 9G Center. Do not park in named or numbered spaces at any time as these are assigned to individual teachers or students. There is usually more parking available at the 9G Center, and unmarked spaces may be used.

### ***How can I get involved at Cinco Ranch High School?***

Join the PTSA and complete the volunteer form. Many opportunities exist, such as the greeter desk, workroom, special projects, textbook room, and hospitality. Projects vary from long-term to one-time event projects. If your child is part of the Fine Arts or Athletic programs consider joining the Booster Club that supports those programs. Volunteering is a great way to help your child's school and also learn more about the school.

### ***What is Fish Camp and Fall Roundup?***

The Cinco Ranch Fish Camp and Fall Roundup '11 will be held **August 8, 2011 from 9 am to 3:00 pm**. The schedule is planned as follows:

9:00 am - 12:00 pm Fish Camp Festivities

12:00 pm - 3:00 pm Roundup

All incoming ninth grade students will receive a personal letter of invitation in the mail over the summer with more details. This is an opportunity for incoming 9th graders to tour the 9th grade center, learn about some of the clubs, pay for Cougar Bucks, and buy spirit wear.

During **Roundup** they will pick up a **copy of their courses**, take **yearbook pictures**, pick up **student id badges**, and obtain **textbooks**, **lockers** and much more.

### ***I am already feeling overwhelmed. Is this normal?***

YES! You and your student may feel this way at first. Take advantage of the KISD, CRHS & PTSA websites, *Cougar Express* newsletter and the school marquee to keep informed. Also, parents of upperclassmen can answer some of your questions.

### ***What are Cougar Bucks?***

Cougar Bucks is a system that allows parents to send periodic checks to cover food purchased in the cafeteria. This cannot be used to purchase pizza or other foods sold outside the cafeteria for grade level fundraisers. Students must present their student ID to purchase lunch.

### ***Where can CRHS items be purchased?***

The Cougar Den Store is currently open daily from 10:15 am - 12:45 pm. The school store is located in the main campus and carries school supplies, spirit wear and accessories, snacks, and much more.

### ***What School Supplies will my student need?***

There is a school supply list posted on the CRHS website. Click on Student Resources then click on resources. Do not rush out and purchase everything on the list, each Teacher has their own supply lists that they will give to the students. First day of school students only need paper, pen and pencil. At Open House, which is held early Fall, teachers will give you a list of supplies needed for each class. English class books may be purchased at the book fair that night as well.

### ***What is the 9th Grade Center?***

The 9th Grade Center provides 9th graders with a facility where they will take many or possibly all of their classes. The 9th grade principals, counselors, nurse, attendance administrator and cafeteria are located here.

### ***What are exam exemptions?***

Briefly, exam exemptions allow students to exempt out of semester exam(s). Ninth grade students may exempt one exam each semester but cannot exempt the same class both semesters. There are grade and attendance requirements. If the student has an A and no more than 3 absences (both excused and unexcused) in a class, a B and no more than 2 absences in a class, or a C with no more than 1 absence in a class he/she may consider exempting from that class. **A student may not exempt in a class in which he/she has an N in conduct.** Also, for exemption purposes, three tardies to a class equal one absence. **Watch for the Exam Exemptions Procedures to get the complete requirements.** Semester exams count for 25% of the student's semester average.

### ***Are high school students allowed to carry cell phones?***

High school students are allowed to carry cellular phones during the school day. However, the policy regarding cellular phones and other paging devices comes with many restrictions. High school students may carry cellular phones at school, at indoor school-sponsored activities, and on District transportation, if these are turned off and not visible. This means that the phones may not be used at any time during the school day, which is from 7:30 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. Also, no audible ring or vibrating noise may be emitted from the cellular phone. The cellular phone policy was changed because of a safety concern for students who participate in before-or-after school activities. Only high school students may bring cellular phones or paging devices to school. Elementary and junior high students are not permitted to bring cellular phones to school or to school sponsored activities.

***Are students allowed to carry backpacks with them throughout the day?***

Yes, students are allowed to carry backpacks from class to class.

***What is the procedure for dropping off forgotten items or leaving a message?***

If your child has forgotten an item or needs to receive a message, you can bring the item or call the 9th grade office. Your child's name will be added to the "lunch period list". Near the beginning of each lunch period administration will call out the name of students that have items to pick up. The student is responsible for coming to the office to retrieve the item or message.

***Does CRHS publish a Student Directory?***

Yes, the directory provides an easy to use list of students' names, addresses, phone numbers, and grade level. It also contains the bell schedule, KISD calendar and names/extensions of faculty and staff. Sport schedules and organization contacts are also included..Directory order forms will be in the PTSA first day packets. Consider ordering 2 copies, one for your student and one for you to use. Directories will be distributed to the students in the fall during lunch periods, please remind your student to pick up their copies.

***Who is allowed to come on campus and have lunch with students?***

Parents, grandparents, mentors, and those that have an approved Limited Public Forum (LPF) application on file with the Administrative Principal are allowed to join students for lunch. The only students who are allowed to eat with a LPF are those students whom we have a signed permission slip from their parent/guardian. Anita Kuhlmann, Administrative AP Secretary, should be notified beforehand when someone under the LPF is planning on being on campus and they are aware of the policies of their signing in. They must sign in **with Anita Kuhlmann in the front office before signing in at the Welcome Desk** and proceeding to lunch.

***Why should my student participate in a service organization at CRHS and perform volunteer work in the community?***

The answer to this question depends on the age of the student. Students in all grades grow personally from these experiences, and a comprehensive record of these experiences help the student complete a strong job, NHS, college, and scholarship application. Senior students may also earn an honor cord to wear at graduation through the CATS program.

### ***What is the CATS program?***

Seniors Volunteering Proudly, a program in place at all Katy ISD high schools, encourages senior students to volunteer in the community and to earn a white honor cord to wear at graduation. At CRHS, this voluntary program is called *Cougars Achieving Through Service* (CATS) and each senior must complete the required hours, with signed documentation and turn in their completed notebook in April of their senior year. **Students in all grades** may participate in the CATS program. Each participant will complete grade specific requirements and will be recognized for their service. Required hours will be as follows: Freshman – 10 hours, Sophomores – 20 hours, Juniors – 40 hours, Seniors – 60 hours. **Only Seniors** will be eligible to earn an honor cord to wear at graduation for hours completed between April 1 of their junior year to March 31 of their senior year. Additional information and CATS handbook will be distributed by grade level principals.

### ***Where can my student find ideas for volunteer work in the community?***

Students can check the CRHS webpage at <http://kisdwebs2.katyisd.org/katywebs/Default.aspx?tabid=36468>. Click on Student Zone and then click on CATS. Students will also find that by joining service organizations at CRHS, many groups have scheduled ongoing projects throughout the year that make it easy for the student to participate while enjoying time with his peers and his teacher sponsors. Encourage your student to join and to be active in their meetings and activities. Many groups also encourage parents to participate in their activities and their booster clubs.

### ***How can my student and I learn more about extracurricular activities at the school? When will my student have an opportunity to sign up for these activities? After sign-ups, how can my student keep track of when their organization is meeting?***

Use the school website <http://kisdwebs2.katyisd.org/katywebs/Default.aspx?tabid=36468> where announcements from the clubs are posted on the web page. Since few announcements are made orally during the school day, students must read the announcements posted on the web page and the bulletin boards at school to keep track of their meetings and activities. Also, read the flyers posted in the rotunda and along the tack strips in the hallways.

### ***How can my student sign up or tryout for sports?***

Talk to their 8<sup>th</sup> grade Coaches. Usually they have this information and are in contact with the high school Coaches. Local newspapers and the CRHS website also provide information.

Note to Parents: Some 9<sup>th</sup> grade students may feel overwhelmed to try out and/or sign up for activities or sports in high school. If you know your student is interested or really excels in something, they may need a little encouragement from home. Once they do join or sign up for the activity or sport they meet other students with the same or similar interests. It makes the transition a little easier.

### ***Why should my student join me as a member of the PTSA?***

In high school students are now eligible to join the PTSA and the name change reflects this new opportunity-the Parent, Teacher, Student Association. Students are encouraged to attend general meetings, to volunteer for appropriate projects, to participate in Reflections-a nationally recognized art, music and writing competition, as well as to apply for PTSA scholarships available through local, state and national PTA chapters. Students may include this membership and these volunteer services on their job, NHS, college, and scholarship applications.

### ***What are some of the traditions and norms with Homecoming?***

The Homecoming Dance is sponsored by the Student Council and is held on the Saturday after the Homecoming football game in the fall.

The social aspects of homecoming usually involve a young man asking a young lady to attend the homecoming dance with him or vice-versa. However, there are groups of young men and groups of young ladies who attend the dance without having "dates". If it is a "date", then the young man is expected to purchase a homecoming mum for his date, and the young lady is expected to purchase a "garter" for the young man. The students may purchase these "mums" through the band during lunchtime, at area businesses, or make by hand. The students are allowed to wear their mums to school on Friday, the day of the game. The girls usually wear overalls to pin their mums on the straps because they are so heavy! The freshmen and sophomores have maroon and white colors, the juniors have silver colors, and the seniors wear gold colors around their mums to distinguish their class rank.

On Saturday, the dates or groups of students go out to eat prior to the Homecoming dance. If they cannot drive, the parents usually chauffeur them. The young ladies usually wear tea or formal length dresses, and the young men usually wear a suit or at least a shirt and tie. The young ladies purchase boutonnieres for the young men, and the young men purchase corsages for the young ladies to wear at the dance. *Students are expected to adhere to appropriate dress code when choosing their dresses for the dance.* Bare midriffs, midriff cutouts, low cut backs on dresses, or skirts that are too short are not allowed. There is security and a check-in process at the door, and students will not be re-admitted if they leave the dance. All students attending must show their student ID. Remind your child to take their student ID! The tickets to the dance are purchased by the young men and sold about a week before homecoming during lunchtime. *No tickets are sold at the door.* There is a photographer at the dance to take pictures, and the young ladies usually purchase the pictures and split them with the young men. This year Homecoming is the weekend of October 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

***What are some of the traditions and norms with the Sadie Hawkins Dance?***

The Sadie Hawkins Dance is held usually on a Saturday in the spring and is sponsored by the Cougar Stars Drill Team. At this dance, the girls ask the guys to the dance, but students may attend in groups if they wish. The girls purchase the tickets during lunchtime. The couple usually goes out shopping together to buy matching T-shirts, with the girls purchasing the T-shirts. The boys pay for the pictures at the dance. This is a more informal dance with the couple wearing jeans and matching T-shirts. Dinner is optional once again.

**HELPFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:**

<b>NINTH GRADE CENTER</b>	<b>281-237-7090</b>
<b>MAIN CAMPUS</b>	<b>281-237-7000</b>
<b>FAX</b>	<b>281-644-1734</b>
<b>ATHLETIC DIRECTOR</b>	<b>281-237-7070</b>
<b>KATY ISD ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>281-396-6000</b>
<b>KATY ISD TRANSPORTATION (WEST)</b>	<b>281-396-7560</b>
<b>KATY ISD POLICE DEPT</b>	<b>281-237-4000</b>

