

Can you believe it? It's May! Do you know what that means? AP test days are here! In this week's message, we have those final essential reminders for students taking AP tests. Parents, I know that your student is in high school and should be independent enough to remember everything they've been told without reminders. However, they are also often nervous about these tests. So, if you could please help us out and talk through the things below in the AP section EACH NIGHT before your student has a test, that would be great. It may save a great deal of frustration on both your parts.

Also in today's PM is the information needed for all the upcoming senior events and graduation. It's a lot, so the handy one pager that was sent to your student a couple of weeks ago is included as an attachment. My suggestion – print out the one pager and hang it on your refrigerator. In the upcoming weeks you are going to have moments of panic wondering if your student has forgotten something or missed a deadline. Having this handy will make checking easier.

Yes, you could palpably feel the stress increase this week day by day (and the unexpected evacuation didn't help that) but two events really stood out that were pure fun. LASA's Athletic Signing Day was Wednesday and we had a record number of students sign that day or later in the week. Fifteen students in total have signed to participate in athletics at their college – check out the accolades section for names, sport, and the college each student will be attending. The second event was Decision Day. Seniors represented their post high school plans with t-shirts, hoodies, hats, pennants, bags – you name it, we saw it. For some it was the first time they let their friends and classmates know their decision. Students ate cookies and hung out in the theater while school/post-secondary categories or areas of the country were called. They cheered for their friends who ran up on stage to get a picture with everyone else going to the same place or area. So Much Fun!

On that note, we were showered with parent assistance and appreciation Friday. Thank you to the parents who donated and served the delicious Mediterranean lunch to kick off Teacher Appreciation Week. Rave reviews on all the food from the staff. Also, thank you to the parents who set up, handed out pennants and cleaned up for the Decision Day event. We could not have pulled this off without you.

Weekly Schedule

This Week is Teacher Appreciation Week

- **Monday** – Regular A day
 - AM Tests
 - Latin
 - Biology
 - PM Tests
 - European History
 - Microeconomics
- **Tuesday** – Regular B day
 - AM Tests
 - Chemistry
 - Human Geography
 - PM Test
 - US Government

- **Wednesday** – Regular A day
 - AM Test
 - English Literature
 - PM Tests
 - Comparative Government
 - Physics 1
 - CAC Meeting 4:05 in room 308
- **Thursday** – Regular B day
 - AM Tests
 - Physics 2
 - World History
 - PM Test
 - Statistics
- **Friday** – Advisory B day
 - AM Test
 - US History
 - PM Tests
 - Chinese
 - Macroeconomics

Parking (yes, again)

In the spring semester is when we usually see the most parking violations on campus. So I wanted to send out these reminders:

- Only juniors and seniors should be driving to school.
- Only seniors with a LASA parking permit are allowed to park in the school parking lots.
- Juniors should be parking on THE SCHOOL SIDE of the street

We get weekly (and sometimes daily) complaints from neighbors about cars parked in front of their houses blocking driveways, mailboxes, fire hydrants, or trash cans. They are, understandably, quite frustrated!

Many neighbors also have more than one vehicle and would like to park that vehicle in front of their own house. Again, quite understandably.

We are trying to be good neighbors to everyone around the school. It is not unreasonable for them to want to park in front of their own house, be able to leave their own driveway, receive their mail every day, or have their trash picked up.

The neighbors on Mayhall seem to be having the toughest time at the moment. It's already a very short street, and lots of cars are trying to cram in there. One of our neighbors goes days without getting their mail because students have parked so that the mailman cannot stop by their house.

I understand parking on Mayhall is convenient, especially if you are already running late for class. But please be kind and do not park on the neighborhood side of the street. Especially on Mayhall!

Final AP Reminders

Nothing increases anxiety in the moments before an AP test, then having an issue you could have prevented. If your student is taking one of the AP tests scheduled for this week, please remind them of these three possible issues both today and the night before each exam:

1. Morning tests begin before the first bell. Students who have a morning test should be in their testing room by 7:45AM. The tests will start promptly at 8:00AM. Late students will not be allowed into the testing room. Please make sure your student arrives to campus with plenty of time to grab a snack from PFLASA and comfortably be in their testing room no later than 7:45AM.
2. Students need an ID at the test. Their LASA ID or a valid driver's license both work fine. Since we've begun morning ID checks, this issue has gotten better, but even the most responsible person can forget it now and again. AP test day would be the wrong day for this to happen. Please make sure your child has an ID. If you ask them today and they can't find it, they can get a new one in the library. Here's the catch, the library is being used for testing nearly every day. It will close in the morning around 7:30AM and it will not be open during lunch. So, if your student needs to have a new ID made, they must be at school, in the library, with \$5 before 7:30AM prior to their test date.
3. They need a charged Chromebook. The key in that sentence is CHARGED! Please remind your student to plug in their Chromebook the night before their test and then make sure they put it in their backpack the following morning.

Coffeehouse 2026

It's almost time for one of the most anticipated events of the LASA school year...Coffeehouse!

Coffeehouse is the annual fun-filled talent show that showcases the amazing skills of the LASA students and staff. It is entirely created, organized and executed by the students of the Songwriting Class with the guidance of Mr. Snyder. This event is for current LASA students and their families.

Coffeehouse will be Friday, May 15 at Life Austin at [1504 E 51st St](#). This venue offers two amazing settings to enjoy the performances. We are excited to announce that we will have a few food trucks this year! Doors and food trucks open at 5:30 pm. Showtime is from 7-10 pm. Smoking and vaping is strictly prohibited, and food must be consumed outside. Limited parking available on site. Please strongly consider carpooling or ride-sharing!

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased online and at school. Buy your tickets early, this event historically sells out!

We need many adult volunteers the night of this event. Please consider volunteering for one shift and staying for the remainder of the concert.

Find all the answers to your Coffeehouse questions at <https://pflasa.org/coffeehouse-on-season/>

Class of 2026 Events – Have Your Calendar Ready!

Project Graduation

Purchase tickets NOW for \$10 [RIGHT HERE!](#)

Location: East Communities YMCA

Starts: Monday, June 1, 2026 at 10pm

Ends: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 5:30am (Pick up at LASA back parking lot)

Full details provided in the **LASA 2026 Project Graduation Contract & Dietary Preferences**. Look for the link on the purchase confirmation page. Contracts must be completed by parent and student to attend.

Project Graduation Volunteer Opportunities

Party like it is 2026! This is a super fun event for the graduates and the volunteers. Grab a friend or two and sign-up for a 4-hour shift.

[Volunteer sign up here](#) (we encourage 9-11th grade parents to sign up!)

Photos for Project Graduation Slideshow

A slideshow will be running all night in the background at Project Graduation. If you have any photos over the last four years of you and your LASA friends that you want to share for the slideshow, please add them. Remember to keep it clean and remember that everyone can see these. Looking for group photos, athletics, fine arts, friends, clubs, etc. (Max of 15 photos).

For privacy purposes we are not posting the link here. You can find the link to submit both in the 2026 Google group and in Mr December's 4/28 email "Project Graduation and Senior Moments" (sent to both parents and students).

Senior Salute

Sunday, May 31 at 3pm (senior line-up at 2:15pm and doors open 2:30pm)

The Long Center

Memory Book

The Senior Salute memory books are put together by junior yearbook editors and each senior will be featured with a photo, future plans, their quote and their signature. Check with your student to ensure they have completed the form for this information. It was due this past Friday. Just in case they haven't – [here is the link again](#).

Should I go to Senior Salute???

Your student (and you) may be wondering about attending Senior Salute. All AISD Graduation Ceremonies are the same but Senior Salute is all LASA. I always say that Graduation is for the parents and Senior Salute is for the seniors. Every student will be included in the slide show that runs during the event and every student will walk the stage. Seniors will be performing as emcees, musical acts and in the skit—lots of inside jokes that the student will get and parents won't! It's a long event but they only graduate from LASA once so don't miss it!

PS: Seating has been limited in years past so it was recommended that only immediate family attend. This year we have more seating, so best guidance is to consider who can sit through a 3 hour event!

College Decisions

When your senior hits that ACCEPT button, please have them share their decision on the **2026lasadecisions** Instagram page. There is a HOW TO instruction link for submitting their entry.

Elementary School Senior Walks

Senior Walks are a chance for graduates to return to their elementary campuses and walk the halls to show the littles what they are working towards (and maybe get a hug from a former teacher)! These are posted to the [LASA Senior Info](#) page. If you have info about a school not listed, please send that to webmaster@lasahighschool.org

Cap and Gown Orders

For the cap, gown & tassel package, scroll down to the bottom right of [this page](#)

Orders will be available to pick up at LASA at Graduation Practice

Families needing help purchasing a cap & gown, please email [Mr. December](#)

Graduation Practice (Mandatory)

LASA Large Gym

5/29 9:00am – 11:00am

Graduation

Monday, June 1 2:00 pm

Burger Arena (indoors)

- Lots of space – Everyone is welcome!
- Note AISD clear bag policy and other [AISD Graduation FAQs](#)

Graduation Info

Here is the information you need to know for a smooth graduation. Reminder, LASA graduation is Monday, June 1 at 2:00 pm at Burger Arena.

Transportation

Students are encouraged to ride the shuttle from their high school campus to the event venue. Each campus will have shuttle buses running from the campus to the graduation site 2 hours prior to the ceremony start time until 2 hours after the graduation ceremony ends. Families are also able to ride the shuttle.

Cap & Gown Information

Graduation attire includes a graduation robe, cap, tassel, and any official regalia awarded by your campus. Heritage stoles may be permitted upon approval. Seniors should submit a photo of their proposed heritage stole for approval by campus administrators. ***No decorated caps, flowers, leis, money necklaces, Mardi Gras beads, flags, chains, LED flashing lights, etc. are permitted.*** Tassels are to be worn on the right side of the cap until the Principal directs Seniors to move to the left side at the end of the ceremony.

Seniors are encouraged to dress business casual with pockets for keys and cell phones. Do not bring any bags or items. The area where Seniors line up is not secure; therefore, no items can be left as the area is not monitored.

I Forgot to Order my Gown, Cap, or Tassel

Do not let not having a cap or gown ordered deter you from participating in graduation. We (Registrar's Office or AP) have extra items on hand that can be loaned to students. Herff-Jones will also be at the graduation site to sell caps and gowns if you did not place an order or if you need a tassel with the Class of 2026.

Student Arrival

Seniors should report to the graduation site 1 hour before the ceremony. Seniors must check in with campus staff and line up in alphabetical order to be ready to enter the venue on time. Look for the signs directing Seniors where to check-in. Once you are marked present, you will receive your Class of 2026 medallion. If you don't check in at the Senior area we will assume you aren't present and your name will not be called during the ceremony.

Burger Arena & Stadium students are to be dropped off on Hwy 290/Ben White (Visitor) side of the building underneath Burger Stadium.

Guest Arrival

The graduation ceremony will begin promptly at the scheduled time. Please allow plenty of time for transportation, traffic, and parking. Facility parking instructions will be displayed on signs and by AISD Police, who will be on-site to direct parking and traffic. Shuttle buses will run from each campus two hours before and two hours after the ceremony concludes.

Parking at the Event

Due to the increasing cost of graduation ceremonies, we are continuing with paid parking.

- Pre-paid parking will be \$15, and parking on the day of the event will be \$20.
- Graduation guests can pre-purchase parking through the [parking website](#) for events at the Burger Complex.
- Free shuttles are still available for families from each high school.
- If you need ADA Parking, please arrive early. ADA parking at Burger Stadium will be available on both sides of the stadium on a first-come, first-served basis.

Exiting After the Event

Guests are asked to remain seated until all graduates have exited via the recessional. Graduates are encouraged to meet up with their families and guests outside the venue.

AISD Clear Bag Policy

Visitors are required to use clear bags at any Austin ISD facility. All guests may be subject to a visual inspection and/or a bag inspection conducted by an AISD staff member.

Approved bags must be clear and not exceed 12 in. (by 6 in. by 12 in.) or be a clear one-gallon resealable plastic freezer storage bag—One per person. Bags must be clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC and have a maximum of one logo imprint not exceeding 4.5 in. tall x 3.4 in. wide. The only non-clear bags permitted are small clutch bags (with or without a strap) that are the size of a hand. Exceptions will be made for medically necessary items after proper inspection at designated areas.

Prohibited Items

Please note that failure to comply with guidelines may result in ejection from the venue.

- Food and drinks, with the exception of sealed, disposable water bottles
- Smoking/Vaping
- Alcohol may not be served or consumed on any AISD property
- Laser pointers
- Noisemakers or air horns
- Use of drones
- Pets or animals (service animals are permitted for disabled guests)
- Balloons, confetti, powder, large posters, and streamers
- Glitter (thrown, displayed, and/or worn)
- Firearms or explosives, weapons of any kind, are not allowed on any AISD property
- Any item deemed inappropriate for the event by AISD staff

Student Expectations

Graduates must be on their best behavior upon arrival, during, and after the event. ***Graduates are expected to remain seated and in attendance through the end of the graduation ceremony.*** We ask that Seniors remain with their Class of 2026 and cannot leave early before the event ends.

Seating

Mobility-Impaired Guests & ADA Seating

On-site handicapped parking is available. Upon arrival at the graduation site, inform AISD staff at the entrance of your needs.

American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation Seating

Families needing ASL Interpretation will be seated in a designated area for enhanced viewing. Please notify AISD staff at the entrance of the facility that you need ASL seating.

What to Expect During the Ceremony

Seniors

Seniors check-in upon arrival. After checking in, Seniors will line up in alphabetical order. When it is time to enter the event venue, they will follow the line leader to their seat. After the speeches, line leaders will signal seniors when to stand and the entire row in each section stands at once to line up to approach the stage. Seniors will walk onto the stage, receive their diploma cover from the Principal, take a photo, and return to their seats.

Guests

Please refer to the digital graduation program for the order of events for the ceremony. Once Seniors begin receiving diplomas, please hold your applause until the end of the awarding of diplomas, so that every family can hear their child's name announced.

Graduation Live Streaming

The 2026 Austin ISD Graduation Ceremonies will be broadcast live on Channel 22 on Spectrum, Time Warner Cable, Grande, and AT&T U-verse Channel 99. Watch our free live stream on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#).

Graduation Photos

Keep it Digital is the official photographer for all AISD Graduation ceremonies. Students and their families are going to receive the information to order graduation photos following their schools graduation. If there are any questions (before or after the graduations) regarding graduation photos, feel free to call 512-217-3177 or email support@keepdigital.com

Please be aware that shortly following graduation your student's AISD Email address will be disabled.

Given this fact - in order for them to receive their graduation photo proofs from Keep it Digital (the official graduation photography service provider) their personal contact information (specifically including their **PERMANENT Email address**) needs to be provided. To provide contact information specifying where they would like their proofs to be sent, use the link below.

Please remember to tell your student - DO NOT submit your AISD email address. Use their personal email address.

If your student chooses not to complete this they will likely not receive their graduation photo proofs.

Link to the proof request form that needs to be filled out:

<https://keepitdigital.com/proof-request-form/>

Announcements

AP Snack Locations

Each morning this week, students taking one of the AM tests can pick up a quick snack before their test in the large gym foyer. Students taking a PM test can grab a snack before they begin at the following locations:

- Monday- large gym foyer and library
- Tuesday – large gym foyer
- Wednesday – large gym foyer and library
- Thursday – large gym foyer
- Friday – large gym foyer and 502

AISD Advocacy Committee Needs Two LASA Student Reps

Is your student interested in politics? Curious how AISD sets its legislative agenda? There are two seats available on the AISD Advocacy Committee for LASA students who will be in grades 10 – 12 next school year. If your student is interested, please have the complete the AISD Advisory Committee form and share that they wish to join the Advocacy Committee. **standard application form**

New action item for Seniors!

We need your photos for the Project Graduation slideshow.

A slideshow will be running all night in the background at Project Graduation. If you have any photos over the last four years of you and your LASA friends that you want to share for the slideshow, please add them. Remember to keep it clean and remember that everyone can see these. Looking for group photos, athletics, fine arts, friends, clubs, etc. (Max of 15 photos).

For privacy purposes we are not posting the link here. You can find the link to submit both in the 2026 Google group and in Mr December's 4/28 email "Project Graduation and Senior Moments" (sent to both parents and students).

Senior Parents: Countdown to purchase Project Graduation Tickets!!

BUY TICKET NOW!!

We are receiving many duplicates! Please check your emails before buying if you have a doubt. You can search your inbox for "Your receipt from PFLASA no-reply@givebutter.com" **before** buying a ticket.

We're just over half of the tickets sold (220/397). **Help us finalize prizes for all attendees, as well as food and drink quantities by buying your ticket now.**

May is a crazy busy month for all of us, and we need your help to get this done and out of the way ASAP!!

Project Graduation Volunteer Training in May

We will be holding **3 identical volunteer Zoom sessions in May (5/13, 5/18, 5/26 at 6pm)**, and are asking all volunteers to **attend one session**. Please [sign up here](#) so we know how many people to expect each time. Zoom link to follow. Thank you to all of you who have already signed up to volunteer.

There's still plenty of time to volunteer, we still need 16 late night volunteers (1:30-5:30am). Please join us and [sign up here](#) to help make this night unforgettable for our seniors! **Remember, IT'S FOR THE KIDS!!**

PFLASA Meeting Friday

Please join us for our next PFLASA meeting, we'd love to see you. (This is our second to last meeting for this school year)

Date: Friday, May 8th

Time: 8:15 AM

Location: Portable by the tennis courts

We'll share what's going on with PFLASA, more volunteer opportunities, committee updates and as always, coffee and tea.

We look forward to seeing you this Friday!

PFLASA Study Groups

STUDY GROUPS are available on 5/5 and 5/6 and WILL HAVE COVERAGE FOR CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY, AND PHYSICS ON BOTH DAYS. Because of AP testing, Study Groups will move location on these days. Look for a sign on the library door for the specific classroom.

Please note that on Thursday, 5/7, Study Groups will resume at its usual location in the classroom adjacent to the Raptor Library.

Topic Tuesdays

Just a few more **Topic Tuesdays** before the end of the school year. What is Topic Tuesday? I'm glad you asked! The Academic Counselors hold a virtual meeting just for parents on ***most*** Tuesdays at 11:00 AM. During this time, they offer information on a specific topic for the first part of the meeting and then they have a Q&A time for parents. Please see the list of dates and topics below and plan to spend a bit of your lunch hour with our amazing counselors. Also, take note of the dates that Topic Tuesday is NOT happening due to conflicts.

Use [this link](#) to join on Tuesdays at 11:00 AM!

May 5 - How to Prepare Your Child for College

May 12 - The Effects of Anxiety and Depression on the Brain

May 19 - Summer 2026 Information: Tune in for details on Summer PE options, Summer School, and other important LASA happenings

Accolades

Quick Correction

Please note the correct name for the AAICE. The accolade was in last week's message.

2026 AAICE (American Academy of International Chinese Education)

Congressional Art Contest

Last week representative Lloyd Doggett was at LASA to award the winner of the Congressional Art Contest. Sophomore Claire Peters will be flown to DC this summer for an awards ceremony and her painting will hang in halls of congress for the next year. Way to go, Claire!

ORCHESTRA ACCOLADES

String Orchestra UIL was an incredible success for the Raptor Orchestra program, with all participating ensembles —Chamber, Camerata A and Camerata B, and Honors—earning Division I ratings on their Concert and Sight Reading performances, resulting in a total of four sweepstakes trophies. Each ensemble demonstrated outstanding preparation, musicianship, and team cohesion on stage. Additionally, all orchestras delivered strong and confident sight-reading performances, further showcasing their dedication.

Youth and Government Success

Over 70 LASA kids made it to state and several teams and individuals were honored in February's YMCA Youth and Government State Finals competition. A couple of highlights of the event were:

-Junior Bryan Page was elected District 2 County Court Judge for the 2026–2027 YMCA Texas Youth and Government State Office Team.

-Sophomore Asher Zvi-Nova won 1st place as a District Court Judge and will be competing at the National Judicial Competition this summer

Athletic Signing Day

The following students have signed to participate athletically at their college or university next year. Please join me in congratulating...

- **Sophie Bell** – Volleyball – Case Western Reserve University
- **Elizabeth Bircher** – Diving – Duke University
- **Eva Cragnolino** – Cross Country/Track – University of Washington
- **Rose Harrelson** – Softball – Hendrix College
- **Jonathan (Jonah) Hernandez** – Soccer – Penn State University
- **Alex Johnson** – Baseball – Austin College
- **Kieran McDonald** – Rugby – US Military Academy at West Point
- **Peyton Phan** – Volleyball – Bryn Mawr College
- **Justin Shi** – Swim – Washington University in St. Louis
- **Mary Sparks** – Stunt Team – Maryville College
- **Isaac Truelove** – Swim – Ginnell College
- **Anna Ugarte** – Track – Yale University
- **Adel Wells** – Soccer – University of Massachusetts Boston
- **Claire Zhou** – Tennis – Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Softball Impresses with Athletic and Academic Recognitions

Raptor Softball finished the year second in district with a 12-2 record, making the playoffs where they lost 6-1 to Georgetown. Impressively, everyone made Academic All District! What an accomplishment!!

Here are the 24-5A All District Awards:

- **Catcher of the Year** - Mary Snyder
- **Newcomer of the Year** - Sophia Heffington
- **1st Team All - District**
 - Mary Snyder
 - Sophia Heffington
 - Rose Harrelson
 - Esther Harrelson
 - Claire Peters

- Julia Pinzur
- **2nd Team All - District**
 - Lorena Edwards
 - Avanelle Cross
- **Honorable Mention**
 - Haili Richardson
 - Camden Factor
 - Stella Mendoza
 - Zoe “Big Z” Roberts
 - Lizzy Lopez
 - Jane Fier
- **Also Everyone made Academic All District including:**
 - Isabella Cruz
 - Satchel Camp

LASA students win it big in math competitions

Firstly, we are excited to announce LASA students' remarkable performance on this year's math olympiads. They have put in years of effort and dedication to progress from the AMC 10/12 contests to the USAMO (USA Math Olympiad). We would like to recognize the following individuals:

- **Hyun-Jin Kim**, who took USAMO and got USAMO Silver, qualifying for MOP.
- **Richard Wang**, who took USAMO and got USAMO Silver.
- **Vincent Wang**, who took USAMO and got USAMO Gold, qualifying for MOP.

The MOP (Mathematical Olympiad Program) is an intensive mathematics summer program which takes in only 70 students nationally each year based on performance on the USAMO. The program initiates the process towards selecting students to be on the United States team for the International Mathematics Olympiad. All three of our USAMO qualifiers were MOP attendees in 2025, and LASA has remarkable representation at MOP again this year!

Additionally, we would like to recognize LASA students' participation on the USAMTS (USA Mathematical Talent Search). Congratulations to the following LASA students who placed on the [official leaderboard](#):

- **Tasneem Ahmed**
- **Jiya Dani**
- **Hyun-Jin Kim**
- **Richard Wang**

Now, we would also like to congratulate the top six teams of the LASA Math Tournament, an annual competition hosted by LASA Math Honor Society (organized and run entirely by students). They are:

- 1st place: **Alex Hersh, Kai Benton, Ryder Armstrong, Hanxiang Mu**
- 2nd place: **Ethan Whitman, Ashrit Beskronnyi, Keshan Yuan**

- 3rd place: **Zihan Mao**
- 4th place: **Xander Kercher, Matt Robson, David Kilday, Sani Ranatunga**
- 5th place (teacher team): **Mr. Arredondo, Mr. Bailey, Mr. Deram, Ms. Kistler, Mr. Laughead**
- 6th place: **Aidan Dai, Andrew Bai, Luke Reneau, Aditya Adapa**

Anyone can participate in the LASA Math Tournament, so we are looking forward to another exciting competition next year!

Attachments:

[2026 Senior Moments 1 pager.pdf](#)