

WELCOME TO
KURT T. SHERY HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT HANDBOOK



2600 VINE AVENUE
TORRANCE, CA 90501
310.533.4440
www.tusd.org/schools/shery

2025-2026

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Student Handbook: A Collaborative Effort

The Shery High School Student Handbook was created through a collaborative effort between students and staff, who worked together to make it more relevant and meaningful. Student input helped shape this handbook. It was written with students, for students.

Statement of Philosophy

At Kurt T. Shery High School, we believe every student deserves a safe, supportive, and respectful learning environment. Shery High School is a place where meaningful academic and personal growth can occur. The smaller, more intimate school environment enables students to change patterns in behavior, attendance, or academic performance. We provide opportunities for students to practice and reinforce productive habits. The staff is dedicated to fostering a student-centered setting that empowers students to take ownership of their journey.

We are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and honored to be recognized as a Model Continuation High School. We teach the Common Core curriculum in our classrooms.

We are a voluntary program that offers credit acquisition at an accelerated pace through productive engagement in the classroom. Individual assistance is always available, allowing students to receive support when needed and while providing opportunities for acceleration when learning has been demonstrated. Our goal is to help students obtain their high school diploma, and all courses required to obtain a diploma are offered at Shery. Students who graduate from Shery receive a regular high school diploma. Students can graduate from their home high school and attend senior activities, if they complete credits by the required deadline in June.

We are here to support students social-emotionally, mentally, and academically. We are the Shery Knights!

Staff and Student Responsibilities

Staff Responsibilities

1. Provide a safe school environment that nurtures learning.
2. Provide an opportunity for students to earn high school credits toward a high school diploma and move on to a career or higher education.
3. Treat our students with dignity. We want our students to feel good about themselves even if something happened along the way that has been hurtful.
4. Establish and administer reasonable rules regarding behavior.
5. Communicate with students/parents about their students' attendance, academic progress, and school behavior.
6. Celebrate success, reward positive work and behavior, without ignoring failures.
7. Respect privacy and confidentiality.
8. Encourage mental health support to students through our school counselor, social worker, and The Well.

Student Responsibilities

1. Come to school clear-headed, rested, and ready to learn.
2. Be on time and attend classes every day unless illness or a family emergency occurs.
3. Take advantage of the educational opportunities presented before, during, and afterschool, and strive for self-improvement. Be committed to gaining the best education possible.
4. Respect your peers and staff, emotionally and physically.
5. Seek the assistance of teachers, the counselor, or the principal when academic or personal problems occur that inhibit learning.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)

Shery High School is committed to providing students with a nurturing educational community in which students have access to multiple modes of support in order to achieve personal, academic, and social success.

PBIS Knights tickets are given to students who are following our Knights' Code of HONOR.



Honest

Take responsibilities for actions
Be a trustworthy and reliable member of the community

Open-minded

Be accepting of all
Be receptive to new experiences and perspectives
Actively seek knowledge and possibilities

Noble

Act like a role model
Act with kindness and compassion
Have integrity

Onward

Think toward the future
Have direction and focus
Show determination and resiliency

Respectful

Be courteous and punctual
Listen to others and respect differences in beliefs and opinions
Practice self-respect

Rules and Regulations

While the atmosphere of Shery is friendly and informal, it is necessary to enact and enforce rules and regulations to ensure a safe school for all students and staff. The goal of the rules is to provide a safe place that allows all students to maximize their efforts. A sense of trust, consistent rules, responsibility, fairness, and respectful enforcement, enables students to build relationships with adults on campus. Please review all the rules and regulations governing Shery High School students.

DRESS POLICY

Dress should be appropriate. Shoes are required at all times. The district dress code is enforced at Shery. Some infractions include: tops that do not have straps, shorts/skirts/pants that do not provide appropriate coverage, and tops that do not provide appropriate coverage. Clothing cannot have inappropriate language or illustrations, and cannot make reference to tobacco, alcohol, or drugs. Students will be given alternative clothing to wear if they are dressed inappropriately.

ATTENDANCE/TARDY POLICY

Shery High School is an intervention to help your student make up credits to return to their home high school or to graduate with Shery High. Attendance is the most important factor in making this possible. Students cannot earn credits if they are not present.

When students are tardy, they are losing out on instructional time, and therefore, not able to make the progress they need to move forward in their educational journey. It is also disruptive to the learning of other students and the teacher.

Consequences for tardies are as follows:

- 1st and 2nd tardy: student gets a warning.
- 3 or more tardies: teacher calls the parent/guardian and detention is assigned.
- More than 5 tardies will result in an Intervention teacher.

Tardies will start over at the beginning of each new contract.

CELL PHONE and other ELECTRONICS POLICY

Music or other audio broadcasts may not be amplified through speakers or other electronics, unless authorized by staff.

Shery High is cell phone free during instructional time. Students will put their phones and other electronics (AirPods/earbuds and smart watches) in their assigned Yondr pouch and hold onto it during class. They will be able to unlock it and use it during break and lunch. If a parent needs to reach their child during class time, they can call the office and we will either get their child or give them the message. Yondr pouches are the

property of Shery High. If a student damages it or writes on it, they will have to pay to replace it.

1-2-3 Phone Policy:

To ensure consistent implementation, the following consequences will apply if a student's phone is not secured in their assigned Yondr pouch:

1. First Violation: The student will be reminded to secure their phone in the pouch by a staff member.
2. Second Violation: The phone will be collected and kept in the office until the end of the school day. A parent/guardian will be notified. The student will pick up their phone from the office at the end of the day.
3. Third Violation: The phone will be held in the office. A parent/guardian will pick up the phone.

If a student brings a second phone to school, both phones will be confiscated in the office to be kept for the day and parents/guardians will be notified.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY POLICY: Students will have access to ChromeBooks and other technological devices (i.e. projectors, document cameras, and printers) in numerous classes. Students are expected to abide by the classroom expectations and rules within the Shery Chromebook. Students who do not abide by the technology policies will have their technology use revoked.

VISITORS ON CAMPUS: Visitors must check-in at the office before going on campus. Visitors from other schools may not be brought to campus. Shery High students are not allowed to be on other high school campuses during the school day.

PARKING: If you drive a car, parking is available in the large student parking lot. Do not park in the faculty parking lot. Refrain from loitering in the parking area. All drivers should be aware of pedestrians. Any behavior (i.e., speeding, driving and/or riding inappropriately) that may endanger the safety of our students will be addressed accordingly.

BEING OFF CAMPUS: Students may not leave the school grounds between periods, during class time or during lunch without an Off-Campus Pass. Parents'/Guardian's permission to leave is not sufficient. Students must have an Off-Campus Pass issued by the office staff. Students who leave campus without an Off-Campus Pass will be ticketed by the TPD and may receive detention.

FOOD DELIVERY: Food delivery services (e.g., DoorDash, Uber Eats, GrubHub, etc.) are not allowed. Parents/guardians dropping off a student's lunch will bring the lunch to the school office, and the student can come pick it up at break or lunch.

RESTROOMS: Use the restrooms appropriately. No gathering as a group, eating, or talking on the phone in the restroom. School and district rules apply in the restrooms.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS: The possession, use or sale of alcohol or any drug will result in immediate suspension from school. The student may be assigned to the Futures Program. Multiple drug or alcohol offenses will lead to a recommendation of expulsion.

SMOKING/VAPING

Smoking is **not allowed** within the gates of Shery High or on the sidewalks leading to Shery. You will be cited if you are smoking in these areas. Vaporizers are considered drug paraphernalia and are not allowed on school campuses and also lead to a citation.

Please be aware that vape detection sensors have been installed in the restrooms. These are in place to help maintain a safe and healthy environment for all students. Any student found smoking, vaping or tampering with the sensors will face disciplinary action.

FIGHTING: Fighting leads to suspension and immediate withdrawal from Shery High School. This includes incidents that occur on the way to and from school.

THEFT: Shery High is not responsible for lost or stolen skateboards, bicycles, cell phones, or any other items. Bring locks for skateboards and bicycles. Please take care of your belongings and do not bring valuables to school.

SCHOOL PROPERTY: People who damage school property will be expected to repair or replace it.

GUIDELINES FOR ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students at Shery are expected to perform all academic work with honesty and integrity. This means all academic assignments are the result of his/her own work, and uphold truthfulness in all aspects. Dishonesty or cheating in any form will not be tolerated.

Dishonesty and Cheating include:

- Copying, or letting someone copy, test answers or assignments, regardless of the value.
- Plagiarism of printed or electronic sources (taking credit for another's work, or not referencing appropriate sources).

Upon the first offense, all of the following consequences will be implemented:

- A failing or zero grade on the work submitted;
- Parent/Guardian notification by teacher; and
- Referral by teacher to principal.

Each student has only one first incidence while in high school regardless of placement, school or grade. Upon a second or any subsequent cheating incident, additional consequences will include:

- Unsatisfactory grade in citizenship;
- Conference including the administrator, teacher, student, and parents/guardians;
- Removal from class; and/or
- Suspension.

Graduation

Shery High has a graduation ceremony every year on the last Tuesday of the school year. Our graduation ceremony is held at the Torrance High School Auditorium.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

There are two (2) main requirements that need to be completed to receive a Torrance USD diploma:

1. Successful completion of 220 credits is required to graduate from any Torrance USD high school. It is your responsibility to see that you meet these graduation requirements. Think of credits as your savings account, you want to make sure all the money you put in, stays in and you are credited. Errors can be made; so keep track. That is your responsibility! Know all course requirements and where you are in relation to earning that diploma! The faculty and staff of Shery High are here to assist you in any way possible. The credits must be in particular areas of study combined with electives (see below).

Classes you need to get 220 credits for your Torrance USD diploma:

- 4 years of English
 - English 1, 2, 3, and 4
- 3 years of Social Studies
 - World History, U.S. History, U.S. Government/Economics
- 2 years of Science
 - Biology and Earth and Space Science (and/or a combination of Chemistry, Physics, or Marine Science)
- 2 years of Mathematics
 - Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra 2, Trigonometry I

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- 1 year of Fine Arts or Foreign Language
 - Art 1, 2, 3, 4,
 - Ceramics 1, 2, 3, 4
 - 1 Semester of Health
 - 2 years of Physical Education
 - ELECTIVES: A total of 75 credits

Shery offers the following electives:

Art, P.E., Fiction Favorites, World Humanities, Personal Finance, Survival of Singles, Leadership, Teacher's Aide, Work Experience, Community Involvement, and a variety of electives online via Edgenuity or Odysseyware.

Sociology 101, Sociology 104, and Library courses are offered on Shery High School's campus through El Camino College. El Camino instructors teach the classes at Shery High School. Students will earn high school and college credits through these dual enrollment courses.

We encourage students to earn elective credits at the Southern California Regional Occupational Center (SoCal Roc), which is right next door. Good skills are learned and credits can be added toward graduation. College-bound or not, skills that make you a competitive employee will help with part-time or full-time work. At the completion of a course of study at SoCal Roc, a student may earn a certificate that ensures employers of your competency in that field of study.

2. A student must have six composite semesters (meaning an average) of Satisfactory Citizenship to graduate from a Torrance high school. If you do not have this and there are not enough semesters left in your high school career to earn the needed number of semesters, there is a course, Personal Awareness that is available and equates to one semester of composite S citizenship plus 5 elective credits.

Course Descriptions

ENGLISH

- English 3: the study of American literature and provides the basis for students increasing their literary understanding and improving their writing, reading, speaking, and listening abilities.
- English 4: course that improves students' communication skills. Interpreting and enjoying world literature is the primary goal.

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

(may replace a failed English or be applied towards elective credits)

- Fiction Favorites: an exploration of current fiction and favorite authors of young adults.
- Novel and the Motion Picture: an exploration and contrast of literacy and cinematic genres of core & supplement literature.
- World Humanities: a course examining the elements of culture through literature.

FINE ARTS

- Art: a general art class. Emphasis is on developing the student's own ideas in two- and three-dimensional media.

HEALTH

- Health: a course designed to meet the State requirements for instruction in personal health, physical fitness, nutrition, safety and emergency care, mental health, family health and substance abuse. Wellness is stressed.

MATHEMATICS

- Algebra 1: the course involves solving and graphing equations that will provide the student with problem-solving concepts that can be applied to technology as well as daily living.
- Geometry: the course applies geometric concepts in problem-solving situations such as area, volume, and angle relationships.
- Algebra 2: the course expands upon problem-solving and graphing skills learned in Algebra I and Geometry utilizing more complex functions to prepare the student for Trigonometry.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- PE: course that emphasizes body movement and physical health through various sports and fitness training. There is a physical fitness room with state-of-the-art equipment and weights. There are no shower facilities, "dressing-out" is not an issue, but daily participation to complete a contract is essential to earn credits. Fifty days of participation equates to five credits, 25 days of participation equates to 2.5 credits.

SCIENCE

- Biology is a one-year course that allows for the study of living things. This includes plant life, human anatomy, environmental issues and animal life.
- Earth and Space Science: a year-long course that focuses on the structure, history, and processes of Earth and its role in the universe.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- World History: the study of unresolved problems of the modern world and contacts with past learning by review of the rise of democratic ideas. The chronology takes us from the French Revolution up to World War I. Then 2nd semester takes us from 1914 up to the modern era.
- U.S. History: a chronological study of American history that encompasses the social, economic, and political (domestic and foreign) developments of our country. U.S. History A briefly reviews the past learning from 1776 through the 1900's. Emphasis will be on 1900 up through World War II. The 2nd semester presents the U.S. in the modern world setting.
- U.S. Government: a study of the Constitution and the three branches of government.
- Economics: course that emphasizes the key factors of our capitalistic economy and its relationship to other economics systems of the world.

ELECTIVES

- English Electives (as listed above in English section)
- Art
- P.E.
- Consumer Math: an introduction to the many ways math can be used in everyday life.
- Survival of Singles: is designed to prepare students for life on their own after graduation. It includes career exploration, budgeting & money management, as well as interpersonal relationships.
- Personal Finance: This class covers a variety of personal finance topics including saving and checking accounts, loans, credit cards & credit scores as well as consumer skills, budgeting, and understanding the psychology behind the decisions we make about money
- Leadership: a class that instills and fosters civic responsibility within the school and community. Enrolled students will go to the elementary school next to Shery and work in the classrooms as assistants 3 days a week. The other 2 days they are with the teacher planning spirit activities for the school and developing leadership skills.
- Teacher's Aides: a period course where students assist teachers in clerical duties. Students must get permission from the teacher to be their T.A.
- Office Aide: a period course where students assist office personnel in clerical duties. Students must get permission from the office staff to be their O.A.
- Work Experience: a hybrid course which entails related classroom instruction with employment. Students who work on a part-time basis will earn 1 credit for

every 18 hours of work and appropriate assignments. A maximum of 20 credits, 10 each semester, is allowed toward graduation. The employer signs an agreement with the student and the school.

- Community Involvement: a hybrid course that combines related classroom activities with volunteer community service hours. Students will earn credits based on the number of hours of service they provide in the community and appropriate assignments.
- Odysseyware: an online curriculum that offers various electives.

General Information

ATTENDANCE

School attendance is required in California until you are 18 years old or have graduated from high school. You cannot earn productive time if you are not here. Poor attendance can result in a referral to the School Attendance and Review Board (SARB) and possibly a shortened day. It is important to attend school to earn credits. Students with excessive absences will be assigned to an Intervention teacher, so we can try to help resolve the issues that are making it difficult for students to attend school daily.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS AND TUTORIAL

Every day a student attends and does the required work in class, they will earn 2%. There is no homework at Shery. If a student would like to earn an extra 2% for a class, they can come to tutorial in the mornings from 8:30 AM - 9:15 AM on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. A maximum of 20% can be earned through tutorial or extra credit.

CALIFORNIA PROFICIENCY PROGRAM (CPP)/High School Equivalency Test (HiSET)

Students who would like to leave high school early can use the California Proficiency Program (CPP) to take the HiSET). Through this program, students who pass the HiSET receive a Certificate of Proficiency from the California State Board of Education. This certificate is the legal equivalent of a high school diploma in California and allows students to leave high school with parent permission or remain and earn a high school diploma.

Students may take the exam if they are 16 years or older, have completed tenth grade, or are enrolled in the second semester of tenth grade. Ask your counselor for more information about the CPP and HiSET.

GENERAL EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEST (GED)

Students who pass this exam have the equivalent of a high school diploma. There are a variety of restrictions to take this test, such as age or the number of days from when a student would have graduated from a high school. It is offered through Torrance Adult

Education, which also offers a course to help prepare students to successfully pass the test. See the counselor for specific information on the GED.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Your counselor is the person to see regarding:

- Information about the school
- Help on educational and personal problems
- Program changes
- Southern California Regional Occupation Center (SoCal ROC)
- Post high school opportunities
- Scholarships
- Participation in counseling, provided free of charge by an outside therapist on campus, and referrals to outside agencies
- Testing (SmarterBalance, GED, etc.) schedules, results and general information

WELLNESS CENTER

We have a Wellness Center as well as a therapist available for students for all types of services from individual counseling to a place to hang out.

SNACK/LUNCH ROOM

Our lunch room is located in Room 107 and is open at break and lunch for TUSD food services. Please apply for the food program online at:

<https://lingconnect.com/public/income-form/new?identifier=Q5ZWXH>.

TEXTBOOKS

Shery High School provides the necessary textbooks for use in classes free of charge to students. However, **students are accountable for them**. Should loss or damage occur, you must pay for the lost or damaged book before getting clearance on the high school records or receiving a diploma from any TUSD high school. A record of lost or damaged books from all schools you attended is kept until graduation and your diploma will be held until all debts are paid.

WORK PERMITS

California law requires work permits for all persons under 18 years of age. Permits are for your best interest and protection. Do not be illegally employed! See the Work Experience Advisor at Shery to get your work permit or for help in finding a job.

Legal working hours for minors are between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. Students cannot work more than 8 hours a day or more than 48 hours per week.

Recognition and Awards

Acknowledging positive behavioral choices and reaching academic goals is highly reinforced at Shery. Students are encouraged to take an active role in their educational pathway and social growth into responsible citizens. Students are recognized throughout the school year for their accomplishments.

Contract Completion

With each completed contract, students put their names on the Completed Contracts Wall in the office and get a small treat.

Contract Winner of the Week

Students' names who completed a contract from the week are put into a raffle. The chosen student of the week receives a gift certificate.

Knightly Tickets and Redemption

Students who follow the Knights Code of Honor are given PBIS Knightly tickets. A bi-weekly raffle will occur at snack to reward students whose tickets are drawn.

Perfect Attendance

Students who are on time and in attendance for all their classes each week will have their name put in a drawing for our bi-weekly raffle to be rewarded.

Student of the Quarter

Each teacher selects a student who has shown tremendous improvement or shown excellence in academics, attendance and/or behavior. A luncheon is held in their honor.

Sally Hirano Award

The faculty nominates and selects one student who exemplifies kindness, consideration and positive attitude, as demonstrated by our former secretary, Sally Hirano.

Graduate of the Year

The faculty nominates and selects one student who has exhibited outstanding educational and behavioral choices that has set them apart from other Shery graduates that year.

Staff & Teacher Contact Information

School Phone: 310-533-4440		
Staff Name:	Staff Email:	Ext.
Dr. Jenny Taylor , Principal	taylor.jenny@tusd.org	x3620
Terry Hughes , Counselor	hughes.terry@tusd.org	x3624
Liz Feltham , Principal's Secretary	feltham.elizabeth@tusd.org	x3621
Nichol Leone , School Secretary	leone.nichol@tusd.org	x3623
Cheyenne DeBruyne , Health Services Assistant	debruyne.cheyenne@tusd.org	x3627

To contact your teacher or staff, please send an email to:	
Teacher or Staff Name:	Teacher or Staff Email:
Deanne Garriott , Special Education	garriott.deanne@tusd.org
Ruth Letourneau , School Psychologist	letourneau.ruth@tusd.org
Nicholas Mesta , Special Education	mesta.nicholas@tusd.org
Marie Nonato , Science/Intervention	nonato.marie@tusd.org
Brian Ormsby , English	ormsby.brian@tusd.org
Kathy Patterson , Social Science/Leadership	patterson.katherine@tusd.org
Juan Rodriguez , Math	rodriguez.juan@tusd.org
Dr. Kimberly Shultz , Speech	shultz.kimberly@tusd.org
Maile Toy , Math/Intervention	toy.maile@tusd.org
Zack Tubic , English/ELD Coordinator	tubic.zack@tusd.org
Timothy Varnell , Social Science/PE	varnell.timothy@tusd.org
Kristen Zukley-Morgan , Art/PE	zukleymorgan.kristen@tusd.org

Bell Schedule

2025-2026 Bell Schedule

Shery Tutorial (Mon, Wed, and Fri)	8:30 - 9:15
Period 1	9:20 – 10:05
Period 2	10:07– 10:52
Break	10:52 – 11:07
Period 3	11:10 – 11:55
Period 4	11:57 – 12:42
Lunch	12:42 – 1:17
Period 5	1:20 – 2:05
Period 6	2:07 – 2:52