

February 22nd, 2021

### **From the Principal's Desk**

What a great week of learning we had in the High School! It was amazing to see our students engaged in learning and taking advantage of their time to socialize and reconnect this week. Our teachers are working harder than ever and those of you who stopped by for the HS Q&A hopefully have a clearer understanding of what it takes to teach classes during Hybrid Learning.

Also in the Q&A, the issue of cameras came up and I mentioned that it is not a simple one. It seems to make logical sense that having cameras on is more beneficial for learning than having cameras off, but the idea of forcing students to turn the cameras on is a multifaceted one with no simple answer. As promised, I include here a couple of articles below that help see the complexity of the issue. We have decided that we would let individual teachers decide whether they would mandate the cameras for part of their class, the whole class, or not at all. This may not work for everyone, but we feel this approach respectful of both students and teachers. If you have concerns about an individual teacher's approach, please do not hesitate to reach out to them to express those concerns. We are also always available for a conversation.

We are looking forward to seeing all the students from group B on campus this upcoming week!

In partnership,

Ivan Velasco  
Principal  
[ivvelasco@cng.edu](mailto:ivvelasco@cng.edu)

Jesse Wagner  
Associate Principal 10 &11  
[jesse.wagner@cng.edu](mailto:jesse.wagner@cng.edu)

Mary West  
Associate Principal 9 &12  
[mary.west@cng.edu](mailto:mary.west@cng.edu)

[The Camera On, Camera Off Dilemma](#) - Edutopia

[In a Virtual Setting, Let Your Students Make the Rules on Cameras](#) - Education Post

[Student Camera Use During Zoom Class Sessions](#) - Brown University

[Camera ON or Camera OFF? It's a Complicated Question](#) - Getting Smart

## **This week's High School news**

### **OPTING IN?**

Throughout the last few weeks of Hybrid Learning, we have noticed that opt-in students are not always coming to school when they are able to. We know that the option to work from home still exists and that there are reasons why sometimes this may be the best for learning in a given moment. We do wish to remind you that teachers are planning lessons based on the number of opt-in students that they have. Please help us out by making every effort to attend in person classes when you are opt-in.

### **ZOOM Q&A SESSIONS**

Please note that we are now moving to a monthly Q&A meeting with parents. The next meeting will take place on Friday March 19th at 9:30 a.m. During these sessions there will be a couple of anecdotes or explanations from the Principal, followed by a Question & Answer time. We are usually done in 30-45 minutes. You can join at the below link:

*Friday March 19th, 9:30 a.m.*

*Join the Zoom meeting through [this link](#)*

## **Reminders**

### **ABSENCES AND MAKE-UPS**

You may have received an email recently from the High School Office saying that your teenager had excessive absences in one or more classes that will need to be made up for credit. If you received this email, but are not sure what it means, please reach out to your teenager's associate principal. Making up these classes is an important requirement and if it is not done, it could lead to a student not receiving credit for the course. Please help your teenager avoid this!

## **GATE PASSES**

We remind you that Gate Passes must be filled out before 12 noon every day to give us time to make the necessary adjustments and follow all our security protocols. We thank you for your attention to this issue.

## **FIRST WEDNESDAY COLLEGE COUNSELING MEETINGS**

Below is the schedule of topics of the First Wednesday College Counseling meetings. The meetings are at 8:00 a.m. and this will be [the zoom link](#) for those meetings. If you would like to see previous meetings, you can check them out at [this link](#).

Mar. 3	Applying to Universities in Europe and UK
Apr. 7	Ranking & GPAs: Basics Info
May 5	Transitioning into College (Senior Parents)

## **CONNECTION ISSUES**

Please note that if your teenager is having connectivity issues and cannot connect to any class we need for parents to send an email to [hsattendance@cng.edu](mailto:hsattendance@cng.edu). The protocol is the same as if they were absent for an on-campus class. In addition, if they are having issues with their account or their zoom platform, they can visit the [Virtual Fishbowl](#) for support.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

Every week students receive information on the different service options that they can sign up for in the HS Student News. We invite parents to ask their teenagers what plans they have to get involved this year and serve others. Maybe you can review the options together and consider what the best fit would be?