



NORTH VALLEY
CHARTER ACADEMY
Public Charter School Grades 6-12

College-ready ... Career-Focused... Preparing students today to step up tomorrow.

Senior Booklet
CLASS OF 2011



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SENIORS

This handbook is designed to assist you in planning for your upcoming senior year. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SENIOR...

Senior (According to Merriam-Webster): *of higher rank or standing, of greater age; a student in the twelfth grade; in their last year of high school.*

It is the expectation of all Administration, Staff, and families that all seniors will step up to be role models for younger students. Seniors are expected to follow all rules and regulations as outlined in this booklet in order for all the events/activities to run smoothly. We encourage all Seniors to participate in as many events and activities as possible, as these events/activities were coordinated especially for you.

SENIOR ATTENDANCE POLICY

A senior who wishes to participate in ANY of the Senior Activities (Prom, Grad Nite, Sr. Breakfast, Graduation etc.) must not be absent for **NO MORE** than 10 school days in any one class period, including Advisory, during each Semester.

If a student experiences a chronic or long-term illness, he/she may have those dates waived by Attendance Office staff members, provided the student submits doctors' notes for the illness immediately upon their return and receives clearance from the Nurse.

If an absence is due to death of an immediate family member, a note from the parent must be written stating whether the service was in California or out-of-California, in which case one or three days will be waived. Students have two weeks to submit documentation.

If a student participates in school related activities, school functions, college visits or any other educationally-related activity, he/she may have those dates waived, provided that the student gives written proof of participation to the Attendance Office immediately upon his/her return.

TARDIES

The following circumstances warrant an unexcused tardy:

- Student is outside the classroom without a legitimate school pass when the tardy bell rings.
- Student is not prepared to participate according to teacher-established policy.
- Student comes into school and does not make it to class before the tardy bell rings. The student must present written documentation of any appointment, this paperwork must indicate the date and time of the appointment.

Students who are late need to check into the office to receive a tardy pass to class, if you do not do so, you will not be admitted to class without a legitimate pass or summons.

Five tardies will equal one school day absence that will be counted against you when checking number of absences to be able to participate in Senior activities.

LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY

Students are allowed to leave school early only under the following conditions:

- ♦ A parent came into the office to sign his/her son/daughter out of school.
- ♦ Student turned in to the office a written note with a contact phone number from their parent, no later than 8:30 a.m., stating that the student can sign him or herself out at a specified time.

DITCHING

As a Senior, if the school finds that you have been **TRUANT** for **ANY** school day, the consequence will be as follows: **One day of Truancy will be counted as missing TWO regular full days of school**. The two days will be counted against you when checking number of absences to be able to participate in Senior activities, and at the discretion of the administration additional consequences may be given.

There is **NO "DITCH DAY"** or other organized non-attendance day for Seniors. In the event that the Senior Class has 25% or more of their class absent on any school day, without authorization by the school, the administration will determine the consequences, which may include the cancellation of a senior activity (depending on the nature of the event) or it will count as missing 2 school days of school. All students absent from the reporting period as well as any Senior checking out of school before 11:00 am will be counted in the 25%.

*** BARRING EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES, IF A STUDENT IS ABSENT FOR MORE THAN 15 DAYS TOTAL (IN ANY CLASS INCLUDING ADVISORY) THEIR SENIOR YEAR, THE STUDENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE/WALK IN THE GRADUATION CEREMONY.**

STUDENT DRIVING REGULATIONS

North Valley Charter Academy is required by our agreement with the City of Los Angeles to make all members of the school community aware of our Conditional Use Permit obligations as they pertain to students who drive.

- ♦ Students must park in the parking lot between the school and the church. No street parking is permitted.
- ♦ Student parking spaces are along the wall on the east side of the campus. Students may only park in those spaces.
- ♦ A copy of the student's current California driver's license (not permit) and a copy of the student's current insurance information must be on file in the office
- ♦ Students are not to go to their car at any time during the regular school day, this includes the lunch period
- ♦ If a student engages in reckless driving in the parking lot or near the school, the student will lose his or her parking privilege for one month.
- ♦ Students must observe a proper speed while on the school grounds (5 mph)
- ♦ Students are not to loiter in their cars or in the parking lot
- ♦ There is no honking in the parking lot
- ♦ Students are to complete a "Pupil Driving Permit Registration and Agreement" form available in the front office. Upon completion and return of this form a high school permit will be issued. The permit must be displayed from the front mirror of the car that is being driven to school.

Those students granted permission to operate a vehicle should understand that driving their vehicles to school is a privilege which may be revoked by the school at any time. North Valley Charter Academy assumes no responsibility or liability for injuries to persons or for damage or loss of contents from any vehicle while on school property.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATING IN ACTIVITIES

Senior activities are an important part of the school year for graduating students. All members of our community work very diligently to make these activities possible. In order to honor the hard work of our community, participants are expected to be role models for the underclassmen. It is the schools expectation that parents will fully understand the need to set certain requirements and will assist school personnel in seeing that students meet these requirements.

The requirements that follow are for **ALL** Senior activities and in order for students to participate the following conditions must be met:

1. Student must maintain a minimum C average Grade Point Average (G.P.A) of 2.0 (NO FAILS!!!)
2. Student must maintain good attendance (Follow Senior Attendance Policy)
3. Student must be cleared of all disciplinary issues.

SENIOR ACTIVITY FEE WAIVER

North Valley Charter Academy has adopted the following policy regarding fees for senior activities: there are a limited number of scholarships available that will pay up to 50% of the cost of one prom ticket. There are also a limited number of scholarships that will pay for one student and one parent to attend the senior tribute dinner. Applications for scholarships, which are based on financial needs, are available in the office. Applications for fee waivers must be submitted by Monday, March 29, 2010.

SENIOR PORTRAITS

Classic Senior photos as well as a Cap and Gown photographs will be taken. Come prepared for the photo shoot by making sure you look your best.

Senior Portraits Information:

When: November 5th, 2010

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: Parish Hall

Price: Information will be sent out

SENIOR PROM

Eligible students must have turned in all necessary forms:

- Student Senior Prom Contract
- Parent Prom Contract
- Guest Pass
- Guest Parent Permission Slip

Prom Information:

When: Saturday, May 14th, 2011

Time: Dinner and Dancing from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Place: To Be Determined

Price: TBA per person

Tickets: Will be sold from

Monday, April 4th through Friday, May 6th, 2011.

****It is *IMPORTANT* to note that NO tickets will be sold after **May 6th, 2011****

NOVA Guest Pass:

If your date does not attend NOVA, a guest form must be filled out and turned in before you can purchase tickets. No guest over the age of 20 is eligible.

GRAD NITE

Grad Nite takes place at Disneyland Park which is open only for graduating Seniors from various schools. The night begins on Main Street, in front of the castle opening at 10:30pm. Fireworks launch the main event at 11:30pm. The event runs until 6:00am, with Graduates contained inside Disneyland until about 5am. For the occasion, Disneyland is decorated with temporary props, sponsorship booths, and several dance clubs. In addition to school chaperones, security is increased at these events to ensure students' safety. Each dance floor is staffed with both Event and Security Cast Members.

Grad Nite Information:

When/Time: Departure-Thursday, June 2nd, 2011 @ approx. 9 pm

Return- Friday, June 3rd, 2011 @ approx. 7 am

Place: Disneyland in Anaheim

Price: \$ 60.00 each person

Tickets: Will be sold from

Monday, May 16th through Tuesday, May 31st, 2011.

Ticket Information

- Tickets will be sold to NOVA seniors only and no guests will be permitted.
- Tickets may be paid in cash or checks payable to NOVA.
- Students must arrive in a vehicle driven by a chaperone.

SR. TRIP

Each year the senior class is given the opportunity to plan and fundraise for a senior trip. The senior class is given a packet of information that must be completed before final approval is given for the trip.

These trips are organized by the students with the supervision of Administration and/or Staff. Whatever expenses are not met through fund raising will need to be paid for by individual families. More information will be sent as the event is planned out through the year. (Trip is subject to approval by the Schools Administration)

Sr. Trip Information:

When:

Time: TBA

Place: TBA

Price: TBA

SR. BREAKFAST

Seniors gather together to cook and serve breakfast for the Junior Class. This event symbolizes the "passing of the torch," welcoming the Junior class as the new incoming seniors.

Sr. Breakfast Information:

When: Tuesday, May 31st, 2011

Time: 8:00 am to approx. 11:30 am

Place: Parish Hall

Price: N/A

(School will provide food)

SENIOR TRIBUTE DINNER

The Senior Tribute Dinner is an important tradition at NOVA. Seniors, their families, school administration and teachers come together recognize the accomplishments of each of the graduating students

Senior Tribute Dinner Information:

When: Wednesday June 1, 2011

Time: Dinner 6:00pm to 10pm

Place: Porter Valley Country Club

Price: \$???? per person

Tickets: Will be sold from

Monday, May 16th through Friday, May 27th, 2011

****It is *IMPORTANT* to know that NO tickets will be sold after **May 27th, 2011.****

This is a formal dinner and appropriate dress is required. The dress code of the venue requires for gentlemen: Suits or slacks and dress shirt, dress shoes and jacket (optional). And for the ladies: Dress, nice skirt or pants and blouse, and dress shoes.

SENIOR GRADUATION

In order for students to participate in the Graduation Ceremony the following conditions must be fulfilled:

1. Senior must fulfill all necessary requirements (California High School Exit Exam, complete all required classes, and earn a minimum of 240 credits) to earn a high school diploma from North Valley Charter Academy
2. Senior student must maintain good attendance (Follow Senior Attendance Policy)
3. Student must be cleared of all disciplinary issues
4. Senior must be cleared of all financial obligations (lunch fees, lost textbooks, etc.) owed to North Valley Charter Academy.

Senior Graduation Information:

When: Friday, June 3rd, 2011

Time: 6:00pm to 9:00 pm

Place: Parish Hall

Tickets: Will be distributed May 24th, 2011

GRADUATION TICKETS

Tickets are required for admission to graduation at the Parish Hall. Each senior who has completed all graduation requirements will receive 10 complimentary tickets.

Each person, no matter how young, will need a ticket. Seniors will be able to request additional tickets. Requests will be taken from April 13th to May 24th.

Request Forms can be downloaded from our website and will also be available in the office.

Dress Etiquette:

Since graduation is a formal ceremony, appropriate dress is required under the cap and gown. Students are not to wear shorts, cut-offs, tennis shoes, sandals, or any other informal type clothing under the gown or on the feet.

EXPECTATIONS OF GRADUATION PARTICIPANTS

Graduation is an important and dignified ceremony, which has significant meaning for the graduating seniors, parents, families and North Valley Charter Academy staff. The ceremony signifies the successful culmination of thirteen years of education.

Students who choose not to follow these guidelines will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony. In order to ensure a successful graduation ceremony the following is expected of all participants:

- Graduates are to be courteous during the entire ceremony and are to refrain from any activity that is disruptive, distracting or dangerous. Please follow directions.
- Graduates are not to carry anything with them into the ceremony. Caps and gowns may not be altered or decorated in any fashion.

- Any student who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or of any controlled substance will not be allowed to participate.
- Students who vandalize or pull "senior pranks" on the school will NOT be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony or any other graduation activities.
- Seniors will receive diploma covers as they walk across the stage at the graduation ceremony. (Read below for instructions to pick up actual diploma)
- Students who choose to disregard behavior expectations will not receive a diploma at graduation and will be asked to leave the ceremony. The student will be required to attend a parent conference with the Principal the week following graduation in order to receive their diploma.

REMINDER: Graduates must attend graduation practice.

DIPLOMA PICK-UP

Graduates will receive only the cover of their diploma during the ceremony. The actual diploma will be distributed at the outside area of the Parish Hall immediately following the ceremony (only graduating seniors can pick up their diplomas as this is an official document that you must sign for in order to receive it).

Diplomas will NOT be given if a student's needs to fulfill a graduation requirement that will be covered during Summer School. Upon completion of the requirement with supporting documentation verifying completion of course, the student will be given their diploma.

Diplomas are NOT mailed home. Seniors who have not met their financial obligations must do so before a diploma will be presented.

*School Administration also reserves the right to restrict any student from Graduation Ceremony for defiance of school rules.

From the Administration

Your senior year is a year to look forward to. It is the culmination of years of hard work and effort. As we have come to know you, we hold you all in the highest regard and look forward to sharing this exciting time with you. We are proud that you have chosen North Valley Charter Academy as the school you will graduate from. We are proud of all of your accomplishments. Enjoy your senior year, this is your time to shine!