



Delta High School Newsletter

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Delta High School is a public-private partnership school serving students from the Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland School Districts. Delta is a unique Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics-focused high school.

Brought to you by parents from the Kennewick, Pasco, and Richland School Districts

November 2012
Volume 3 Issue 2



Important Upcoming Dates

Graduation Cmte Mtg Richland Public Library Lobby at 5pm	11/8
Veteran's Day Assemblies	11/9
NO SCHOOL— Veteran's Day Observed	11/12
NO SCHOOL in Session—MANDATORY Student Led Conferences Schedule with advisor	11/19 to 11/21
Early Release for Staff, 11:30 a.m.	11/21
NO SCHOOL— Thanksgiving	11/22 to 11/23
Clothing and Adopt-a-Family Holiday Food Drives	12/3-12/7

Focus on Learning

Hello, again!

As you all know the honeymoon of "Back to School" is over, projects have begun, and we are in full swing in terms of curricular business. Students are working on integrated STEM projects in grades nine and ten. In grades eleven and twelve, students are engaging in more individualized work and in new classes such as Optics, Elections and the Media, and Calculus. Internships are going extremely well and I have had the good fortune of visiting many of our interns. They are making me so proud! Our new teachers are settling in well and our new freshmen are making the place their own.

You may have read articles in the *Herald* about our facility. Although Richland has agreed to buy the property from Columbia Basin College, there is still more work to do at the district levels to collaborate on co-operation of the school. Our latest path forward with financing the building is a promising one and the districts will continue to work with state agencies to make sure that Delta students eventually have the learning environment they need. If all works out, the timeline will move rela-

Parent's Forum

The P.O.D.S. (Parents of Delta Students) Facebook group is a convenient way for parents to get connected. This is a private group and open only to *parents* of Delta High School students. As the moderator, Tiffany Quintana (mother of Michael Quintana, 11th grade) will update the page with information as she receives it, but all parent members are free to post

tively fast. The teachers and I have given our input and recommendations for the new design and architects are finishing the details. The design has already gone through value engineering (meaning, excess costs were cut). Now, we're just waiting for the districts to get on the same page and then we will move forward with meeting our deadlines. I can assure you that the superintendents are working tirelessly to make this happen. I'll keep you all posted as more information comes my way.

Parents of seniors and I have been meeting to work on graduation for the Class of 2013. It is very complicated and expensive...so if you are a problem-solver or can contribute financially, your help is requested! I would like to personally thank Garrett's dad, Richard Harvey, and Tom Denschel's Ford Country in Prosser for their very generous donation to social activities because another Delta parent purchased a vehicle from them. That's what I call Taking Care of Business!

Graduation progress checking is underway. We currently have a fair number of seniors that have not finished their *junior advisory* and therefore, are not eligible for graduation. Advisory in grades 9-12 is a

by Deidre Holmberg

graduation requirement for all students. Please make sure that you discuss your student's advisory progress with their advisor at our first student-led conferences. For Kennewick students, in particular, studying for and taking the Kennewick Computer Competency Assessment is critical.

In the last newsletter, I accidentally placed a *Seattle Times* op-ed piece from local attorney Tom Roach. It pretty well bashed Mitt Romney and conservative news entertainers. To be honest, I thought it was just a part of the advertising for Mr. Roach's free immigration DREAM Act seminars. The many upset responses were surprising and I certainly appreciate the ones that came to me and for the parent perspective printed below. I apologize unreservedly to those that were offended and I learned a powerful lesson. In the future, I think it is fair to say that I should have read the entire thing before publishing. :)

Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

information and questions. If you're interested in joining this group, please do the following:

- 1) From the email account associated with your facebook profile, send a message to Tiffany at deltahighmom@gmail.com. Include your name and the name of your student(s).

- 2) Accept Tiffany's friend request and she will add you to the Parents of Delta Students group.

In order to be informed about your student's assignments and class activities, please join the Edmodo learning community online. Contact Margarita Alaman in the front office at 544-8355 for instructions.

ONE PARENT'S RESPONSE TO THE TOM ROACH OP-ED PIECE PUBLISHED IN LAST MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

When I saw the op/ed piece about the so-called DREAM Act in the last newsletter, I was very disappointed. Not because of the DREAM Act itself but because of the tone of the commentary. The author describes those that he presumes to be opposed to the DREAM Act as “the antis” in general; “anti-immigration” in particular; and their assumed opinions are “the height of asininity.” He also expresses his guess that certain conservative commentators “...have never met...” one of the kids that would be eligible. He ends by saying that the Republicans should approach this issue “in an adult fashion.”

This author's approach is the picture of what is wrong with our political discourse. I have never seen a situation where insulting those on the opposite side of the issue actually helped win them over.

In contrast, I recently read an intriguing article in Q magazine entitled, “Yes We Can All Just Get Along.” The article is about the great friendship between Republican insider Mary Matalin and Democratic strategist Donna Brazile. “For years, as passionate spokespeople for their respective political parties, Brazile and Matalin have brawled in public while forging a deep and abiding bond.” So what is the ‘secret sauce’ of their relationship? Quoting Matalin, “...even though we don't agree on the issues, I never question Donna's motives. I can listen to what she's saying and I think about where she is coming from because I know she's being true to herself.” Brazile uses former Vice-President Dick Cheney as an example of how they put these beliefs into practice. “...I know that Mary has deep affection and respect for Dick...and as a result of that, I had to start listening to him and not just having a knee-jerk reaction when someone said his name...Because I trusted Mary, I allowed myself to see the loving father and husband, and the public servant. Sometimes you have to take a step back and look at the person and not just the caricature.”

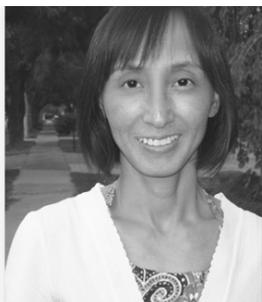
This is good advice for all of us. I absolutely include myself in this because it can be tempting to dismiss those whose opinions differ from our own, especially in today's culture. Yet we all know that this inhibits our ability to work together to solve problems - and we have a lot of problems to deal with. We can hold onto our principles and have a productive discussion without creating caricatures of those with differing views.

Honestly, I don't yet know how I feel about the DREAM act. I don't know much about it and the heavily one-sided op/ed didn't help. I have concerns about the method used to implement the policy because it didn't really allow for public discussion before it was enacted. At the same time, I can see benefits to its implementation as well as some possible unintended consequences. It would be nice to be able to have a vigorous discussion about all these things without being labeled “anti” or asinine.

Given Delta's motto, this is a great opportunity for all of us to “think differently” and have these challenging discussions in ways that are constructive and free of malice, anger, and name-calling. I look forward to seeing that happen.

Avonte Jackson
Delta Mom - Class of 2015





Welcome Clare Hoffner!

Meet Clare Hoffner, LA Teacher

Mrs. Hoffner grew up in Wuhu, a scenic city by the Yangtze River, in SE China. She came to the U.S. in 1987 for graduate school. She has taught English and Business Communications in two universities, Chinese at Thomas Jefferson HS, VA, and Bilingual Education with Seattle School District.

This is her first year at Delta. She loves her job teaching two classes of highly capable 11th graders American Literature.

Mrs. Hoffner has been married for twenty-one years to Mr. Hoffner, who flies to rescue people during medical emergencies. They have three children, Benjamin(17), Ellie(14) and Spencer(10). Mrs. Hoffner likes

the greetings of her son at the top of his lungs each day after school "Hola, Mama!", hugs from her girls, and laughter. She also enjoys gardening, music, plays, outdoor sports, and campfires. In the future, Mrs. Hoffner wants to read more books, travel with her family around the globe and learn more about the science behind our universe.

Upper Division Sciences at Delta Are in Full Swing! *by Deborah Burke*

Organic chemistry students have learned a lot of language associated with this field. They can identify functional groups and use them to name some fairly complex hydrocarbons. Isomers have been explored, including chirality. We have most recently completed a lab activity involving lactose and lactase with the focus being on carbohydrate structure. Ask them about hemiacetal bonds! We are moving through our explorations toward a deeper understanding of proteins. To this end, we are exploring enzyme specificity using lactase, invertase, lactose, and sucrose.

Afterward, we will coagulate milk proteins (say "cheese" everyone!). Of course, the learning is most useful when communicated.

Students are writing background research reports as well as laboratory experiment reports. Speaking with others about their learning is also valuable. Thanks for lending an ear to our novice organic chemists.

Optics students have explored kaleidoscopes and thin lenses. They can calculate focal lengths and magnification based upon

their own measurements of lenses on an optics track. Ray diagrams are a wonderful tool for both determining what will happen in a system of lenses and communicating that behavior to others. Students are practicing the use ray diagrams and using all of their skills to construct telescopes. We just started that project and I am very excited to see how it turns out.

The study of optics is an amazing combination of science, mathematics, and art. Look around and see how optics are used in your world.



Optics Science Class—photo by Nick Rexus

Student Led Conferences: Supporting Student Voice in the Learning Process

by Sarah Pack

What are they?

Unlike parent-teacher conferences where the teacher reports on your student's progress, student led conferences are facilitated by your student. Your student puts a lot of effort into preparing a 20-25 minute presentation for you about their academic progress and what they have learned in their academic classes.

What are the benefits?

- Students take more ownership of their learning.
- Parents and students have more open communication about school and important academic decisions.
- Teachers can establish stronger relationships with parents and students.

When are they?

Student led conferences are held at the end of Trimester 1 and

Trimester 2 every year. This year fall conferences will be held on November 19, 20, and 21 by appointment. During Advisory on November 14, your student will contact you by phone to schedule your student led conference. Once scheduled, you will need to arrive at the Delta High School campus at your scheduled time; attendance at the scheduled student led conference is mandatory.

How can you prepare?

Leading up to the conference, you can encourage your child's involvement in the learning process by having them summarize what happened at school each day. This open-ended question will not only help your student review what they learned that day, it will provide you with a more realistic view of what your student is doing than asking, "Do you have homework?" From these conversations, generate a list of questions you want answered at

the conference and have your student bring the questions to Advisory on November 14. These questions can help your student customize their conference to your needs.

During the conference, offer your student encouragement by helping her/him identify strengths and determine the next steps for their learning. When there are areas your student needs to improve upon, help him/her generate goals and brainstorm ways s/he can monitor their progress throughout the next trimester.

After the conference, use the ride home to continue the conversation with your student about their learning. Discuss why your student's education is important to you and reinforce the long-term value of an education for your student. Throughout the next trimester, help your student monitor their goals and track their progress.



Students in Mrs. Adams' Government class became members of the Constitutional Convention. They negotiated tough issues of representation, and payment of debts, and slavery.

Students shown from left: Haley Blackketter, Garrett Valiant, Annabeth Guzman.

Senior Timeline—Winter

2013 is just around the corner! For students planning on continuing their education, whether it is college or career schools, starting January 1st the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) should be filled out. Without a doubt, this form is one of the most important financial aid forms there is. The office of Federal Student Aid offers more than \$150 billion each year to help millions of students pay for higher education through grants, loans, and work-study funds. Even if you do not believe you will qualify for federal aid, you must complete this form, as many schools and scholarships use the information provided for private loans and awards. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov to download the forms or to file electronically. Please note that in order to complete the FAFSA online, a student must register for a PIN (Personal Identification Number). The PIN serves as a student's electronic signature for the FAFSA. I recommend registering for a PIN late-November or early-

December to allow time for it to be assigned. Without it, a student will have to print the signature page of the FAFSA and snail-mail it. Students can get their PIN at www.pin.ed.gov. Once received, make certain it is stored in a secure place. PIN's are unique to each student and is used every year (FAFSA's must be completed annually).

Lastly, seniors should now be mailing or sending electronically any remaining applications before winter break paying attention to deadlines, as schools vary with some having deadlines as early as December 1st. Students should make certain they apply to at least one college that they know they can afford and where they feel strongly they will be accepted. I recommend applying to 4-5 schools in all. With application fees often ranging from \$35-\$50 that proves to be very expensive. Prior to applying, check school websites or contact the admissions office to see if there

are ways to have application fees waived. For example, some schools will waive fees if students visit the campus first; others waive fees if you apply electronically. Moreover, low-income families may be eligible for application fee waivers offered through College Board (waivers, as well as verification that you qualify, can be obtained by contacting me directly). Follow-up is also important to ensure that the colleges have received all application information, including recommendations and test scores.

Please remember that I am available for questions as you navigate through this exciting albeit busy time. You may reach me at Lisa.Muir@thedeltahighschool.com or 544-8371.

by Lisa Muir, Counselor

Delta's campus is full this year with all four grades finally in place.

Thank you for everyone's support on getting students to reduce their food waste! The Large Red Bowl of Awesomeness is feeding about 15 kids a day.

With all the people around campus, we would like to remind everyone to make use of the recycling containers and to please put litter in its place (the trashcans—not the ground). Let's keep our campus looking good!



WSU at the Post-Secondary Opportunity Fair.

Post-Secondary Opportunity Fair for Seniors

On October 17, 2012, Delta High School hosted its first Post-Secondary Opportunity Fair for the Class of 2013. Public and private universities, community colleges, technical schools and the armed forces were all in attendance. "I enjoy the fact that I attend a high school which goes so far as to prepare me for a future of my choice. The post-secondary opportunity fair showed me many doors to that career that I would not have known about if Delta High School had not hosted the event," commented Delta High School Senior, Zachary Smith.

We were thrilled with the invitees that attended, including:

University of Idaho, Columbia Basin College, Eastern Washington University, Heritage University, Walla Walla University, Gonzaga University, Washington State University Tri-Cities, ITT Technical Institute, Perry Technical Institute, US Coast Guard, US Army National Guard and the US Air Force. Students had the opportunity to discuss degree programs, the application process and scholarships options. Many students also took the opportunity to learn about the different armed forces, their programs, the GI bill and ROTC.

"Having the opportunity to address my concerns and ques-

tions about college was invaluable. Talking face-to-face with a person is just so much more helpful than an email correspondence. I learned that Central Washington University would be a good choice for me if I do not attend a military academy, like I've planned." Omar Freemire, DHS Class of 2013.

The event was a huge success, the representatives from the different organizations commented that they were very impressed with the DHS seniors poise and their inquiry into programs far exceeded prior interactions with other high school students.

by Suzy Merz

ASB President, Claudia Mena, stated, "This was a great experience because it allowed me to see opportunities that I did not know were available to me. I loved the whole experience, now I have some tough choices to make."



Heritage University was also at the Post-Secondary Opportunity Fair.

Parent Potlucks

Word on the street is that parents are really enjoying the Parent Potluck and Education Nights at Delta. They are a great way to meet other Delta Parents and to learn about different topics pertaining to the students, which you may not be hearing about from your student . . . imagine that? Topics have included Senior Capstone Projects, National History Day, Scholarships, Edmodo, and others. The next Potluck will be after the holidays—January 15. Even if you can't make the dinner itself, come a little later and catch the presentations. You'll be glad you did!

SAT Test Dates

Register on
www.collegeboard.org

November 3—register by 10/4

December 1—register by 11/1

January 26—register by 12/28

March 9—register by 2/8

May 4—register by 4/5

June 1—register by 5/2

ACT Test Dates

Register on
www.actstudent.org

December 8—register by 11/2

February 9—register by 1/11

April 13—register by 3/8

June 8—register by 5/3

Small Mistake—Big Consequences

Starting first Trimester a handful of seniors have had the privilege of working as interns at different local businesses. Many of these internships are for pay, and luckily I found myself in a position which is not only interesting but comes with a salary. Little did I know, my first paycheck would be interesting in itself.

At the company where I am an intern, the pay cycle is bi-weekly. I started my internship in the middle of a pay cycle, so when my first paystub arrived I had accumulated about ten and a half hours of work. Note that I received a paystub instead of a paycheck since I was set up to receive my payments as direct deposits instead of by check. This is a detail that will be important in a moment.

You can imagine my excitement. This was the first real pay-day of my life and I was eager to see just how much money I had earned, despite my modest salary and few hours. After fiddling with the envelope, I unfolded the slip.

Upon a moment of inspection, I realized something wasn't quite right. Or maybe it was incredibly and unbelievably right. Under the column labeled "net income" was a figure which took me by surprise. Over six thousand dollars had been directly deposited into my savings account for ten point five hours of work. My reaction was essentially "wat?"

Someone had obviously made a mistake, and although I did appreciate the raise, I knew it

by Seth TeGrotenhuis

couldn't be right. I immediately went to the HR director's office and explained what had happened, and the following day the transaction was reversed and I was given the appropriate amount. As a reward for my honesty I was given a \$25 gift card to Red Lobster; a token well received.

The mistake was simple in comparison to its consequences. My salary was supposed to be for \$9.04 per hour of work, but instead I was given \$904 per hour. Do you see the huge difference something as small as a decimal point can make? Let it be said that paying attention in math class may be more important than you think.

Learning About Food Science (LAFS)

On September 25, Delta High School Freshmen boys attended Learning about Food Science (LAFS) at ConAgra Foods in Kennewick. LAFS is an innovative program designed to give students an opportunity to experience food science in action and learn about careers in the food industry through hands-on, exploratory workshops.

"I think my favorite part was looking at the bugs that attack the potato leaves. I learned a lot about how potatoes get to be fries, then go to McDonald's, Burger King and anywhere else", said Delta High School Freshmen, German Farias.

This year, the STEM Foundation partnered with ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston for the first

time in support of the event. LAFS was a collaborative effort with the STEM Foundation, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston. The food science activities included: Product Development Research Quality & Innovation—where students invented their own potato-based product and competed to win the title of "best new product"; Agricultural Science & Agronomy—where students tested soil samples and identified common insects that affect agriculture; and FoodEx—a food economics game teaching students the method and true cost of their food from farm to table.

"One has a tendency to take for granted the food on a grocery shelf. LAFS shows students

by Suzy Merz

what it takes to get it there. Each year, LAFS workshops highlight industry and high paying career paths that require science and technology", stated Jim Hendricks, Delta High School teacher.

Participants were treated to a fantastic lunch by ConAgra, and t-shirts provided by PNNL. Seventy-three students from Delta attended and 22 volunteers helped to make this event another huge success. "I had an excellent time. I enjoyed working with Con Agra Food scientists, especially my group leader because he led our breakfast burrito bites to earn third place in the new product competition!" said Faria. Thank you to our wonderful sponsors ConAgra Foods Lamb Weston and PNNL!



Freshman boys learning about Food Science at LAFS.

Girls Learning About Manufacturing (GLAM)

Freshmen girls again attended GLAM at Columbia Basin College. Students enjoyed working with female community leaders in manufacturing to learn the processes and procedures that go along with bringing products to market.

Participants enjoyed a wonder-

ful set of presentations, hands-on activities, a delicious lunch, and came home with new and innovative ideas about bringing new products to market.

Our girls at GLAM →



Key Club Starts at Delta

Delta's Key Club began last May when Mack Sack (a senior) and Evelyn Hirt (a Kiwanis advisor) got together and began discussing some different leadership programs and clubs. Mack then began drafting a constitution with faculty advisor Sarah Pack and the club became an entity in June of 2012.

Key Club held their first charity event by collecting food for 2nd Harvest after the Tri-city Herald published an article talking about the food banks reaching dangerously low levels. Delta High School Key Club raised 75 pounds of food in four days and made an amazing contribution to the community.

Just before school got out, thanks to Tyler Williams (our web developer), we launched our very own weebly website. Although still in the works, feel free to check us out at deltahighschoolkeyclub.weebly.com/

We have held four meetings to date and have been getting more students each week. We will begin collecting the \$12.00 dues in November. We will start the application process for new board members in November as well. Students should start thinking about running for a position.

As we all know, the cold weather is arriving and Key Club is ready. We decided at our Octo-

ber 16th meeting that we would make fleece tie blankets and send them to local places in need. We are asking for donations of fleece to the Key Club so we can provide a warm blanket to a cold child in need this winter.

If you have questions about Key Club, feel free to email Mack at mackwsack@gmail.com. He is the founding President of the Delta High School Key Club. Key Club meets on Tuesday mornings at 8:00 a.m. in Mrs. Pack's classroom.

Together we can make our community better!

by Mack Sack

Delta's First Graduating Class

Delta High School will graduate its first class on Friday, June 7, 2013! Note that the date is revised from the initial date of the 6th. We are very excited, and there is much to be done. The class of 2013 has been blazing new trails since they got here and Delta's first graduation will be no different.

A small group of parents, along with Mrs. Holmberg, began meeting as a Graduation Committee last year. Lots of plans to be made!

So far, we have looked into caps and gowns—the color will be black, reserved a venue—the Tri-Cities Convention Center in Kennewick, and we are looking into a venue for the Senior Party. The ceremony itself will begin at 7:00 p.m., and we plan to have a cake and punch reception afterwards which will allow

time for pictures and congratulations to our new graduates.

All of the seniors will be invited to a Senior Party that will probably go until 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. at a venue to be decided upon. We are currently investigating having the party at Columbia Basin Racquet Club in Richland or Tri-City Court Club in Kennewick. Ticket prices will be determined at a later date.

Of course, all of this takes money, and we will need to seek donations and have fundraisers. If anyone has any ideas, please let us know. We will also be looking for volunteers to help with decorating, cake serving, senior party chaperones, etc. We would like to encourage some of the parents of underclassmen to help us out during the ceremony and reception so that the senior parents can celebrate with their child.

The Delta Senate is doing a yearbook. They don't have the official prices of the yearbook yet, but they have established that seniors will get a quarter page free, half page will be \$60, and full page will be \$150. The yearbook will contain pictures from all four years and they're expecting it to be 200-300 pages. Senior Pictures are due November 16th. They'll be announcing due dates for sales soon. Claudia Mena is the ASB President.

Edna Felix is working on a special booklet for graduation. Each page will highlight a different senior. Please email her at laughinghalfing@gmail.com with the following information to be included on your senior's page:

Name of Senior (may include full name or just first and last name), extra curricular activities (i.e. clubs, sports, band, plays, etc.),

awards and achievements (this includes school, church, scouting, etc.), after graduation plans (i.e. job, college, travel, family, etc.), special message from your parents or special relative/friend/mentor (1 message per student), and your senior's favorite quote or a quote that defines him/her.

Edna will also be including pictures on this page. Please provide 1-3 pictures. Pictures can either be emailed, placed on a CD and left in the office, placed on a USB you provide and left in the office for her to pick up, or placed on a USB she provides that is left in the office.

If you would like to be a part of the Graduation Committee, make a donation to help with costs, or volunteer, please contact Donna Williams at donna.williams710@gmail.com.

It's That Time Again . . . Flu Season

Parents, you can help Delta prevent the transmission of illnesses by keeping your child at home if he or she is sick. If your child has a fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, rash, vomiting or diarrhea, please do not send your child to school. You may wish to consider getting your child a flu shot which are now available at

many doctor's offices and drug stores.

Students who need to check out of school during school hours due to illness or appointments, MUST have a parent or authorized adult present. The authorized adult must come into the school and physically sign the student out. The adult will be asked to provide

their ID. This is for the safety of the students.

Parents or guardians are required to notify the office at 509-544-8355 to excuse their student from school or to notify the office of an authorized adult who will be signing out their student for appointments, etc.

Let's keep Delta students healthy!



Closeness breeds contamination!

Delta High School
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Richland, WA 99352

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Return Service Requested

Think differently.



Inclement Weather—School Closures and Delays

We're on the Web!
www.thedeltahighschool.com

The superintendents will distribute ALL closure, cancellation, or late opening announcements to media outlets on TV, internet, and radio where all school closures are normally listed. The district superintendents make these decisions as a group.

For online, updated Pasco information: www.psd1.org For online, updated Richland information: www.rsd.edu

For online, updated Kennewick information: www.ksd.org



Delta High School

Event	Response	Notes
RSD Closed	Delta Closed	
RSD Only Delayed	Delta Open and On Time	RSD students expected to arrive late & are excused
PSD Only Closed	Delta Open and On Time	PSD students excused
PSD Only Delayed	Delta Open and On Time	PSD students expected to arrive late & are excused
KSD Only Closed	Delta Open and On Time	KSD students are excused
KSD Only Delayed	Delta Open and On Time	KSD students expected to arrive late & are excused
All Districts Delayed	Delta Delayed	All students expected to arrive late & are excused. Follow delay procedures in each district.