Dear Terra Linda Parents and Guardians:

As we head into fall, I wanted to share with you some updates specifically related to student achievement. Our first grading period that will be visible on students’ transcripts will end in late December. These semester grades will be an important snapshot of students’ high school performance as they begin to think about their college aspirations. With many colleges and universities becoming test-optional or test-blind, grades are more important than ever.

**Graduation vs a-g requirements:**
As students and families review your quarter grade report cards, it is helpful to remember the differences between graduation and a-g requirements. A student needs to earn *at least* a D in a class for it to count for graduation and *at least* a C in a class for it to count for a-g eligibility. A-G classes are those that you need to successfully complete in order to apply to a 4 year college or university. If your student is planning on attending a community college, they do not need to complete the a-g requirements.

**Fall Semester Grades and Final Exams:**
Fall Semester will be coming to a close before we know it. Students participate in Study Week December 6th-10th and learn about their final exam formats, receive study guides in some classes, and prepare for exams or final projects. Final exams will occur December 13th-17th. A final exam schedule can be found [here](#).

**Upcoming Counseling Events:**
We encourage students to frequently visit our College and Career Center. College and Career Advisor, Carol Morales (cmorozco@srcs.org) and HeadsUp Advisor, Matt Slavin (mslavin@srcs.org) are available to assist students with college and career planning, college applications and much more. Students from all grade levels can find helpful checklists [here](#). For our freshman and sophomore families, a virtual Freshmen/Sophomore College Night will be held on 11/8 at 6pm (Zoom) in Spanish and 11/9 at 6pm in English (Zoom). Please consider attending with your student.

**Science Course Sequence (9th-grade focus):**
This year we are engaging the Science departments at Terra Linda and San Rafael high schools in the development of an aligned course sequence for the 2023-2024 school year. Using the Next Generation Science Standards to drive the discussion, we are focused on ensuring all students are successful in meeting A-G requirements. Our goal is to develop a pathway that allows for and encourages high levels of achievement, including AP courses and rigorous college acceptance. We are participating in monthly team meetings, with committee representatives planning to present recommendations to the Board of Education in March 2022. Science course sequencing will not change for our incoming 9th grade students, and the new course sequencing will be implemented in August 2023,

**Ethnic Studies Course:**
Over a year ago the state came out with both a mandate to establish Ethnic Studies as a graduation requirement and shared a model curriculum for individual school districts to use as a resource. For the 2021-2022 school year, San Rafael High School is piloting a semester-long Ethnic Studies class while Terra Linda teachers engage in supported work to build capacity. Currently Terra Linda and San Rafael staff members are reflecting on the pilot class. Ultimately, we will use the state framework to design a class that meets the needs of our students and uplifts histories that are often marginalized
in our curriculum while considering the potential impacts to other departments. At this time, the Board has approved the pilot of the semester-long course and we haven't finalized any decision around the length of the final class yet. Recently, Superintendent Hogeboom shared this Superintendents's Weekly Wrap - October 22, 2021 (Focus on Ethnic Studies) and Video Link (Interview about Ethnic Studies). In addition, we have this survey you can submit by Friday, 10/29 to share your perspective. The timeline for implementing an aligned Ethnic Studies course at SRHS and TLHS is next year, 2022-23.

8th Grade Registration:
San Rafael City Schools online registration forms for Terra Linda High School will be available in January of 2022. For in-person registration help, families are encouraged to attend our 9th Grade Registration In-Person Support event on Tuesday, January 25th from 4-7pm at Terra Linda High School. Many prospective parents and students enjoyed our 8th Grade Parent Night this past Monday, 10/25. The presentation can be found here. Student Tours are being calendared.

Counselors look forward to meeting incoming freshmen students in February. If you would like to get a look at our course descriptions (English/Spanish) or to read more about our Counseling Department, please visit the counseling page of our website. Counselor emails can also be found there should you want to ask any specifics around scheduling.

Updating Parent Contact Information:
San Rafael City Schools and Terra Linda High School communicate regularly through email and text messages via ParentSquare. For this reason, it is essential that parents maintain updated information (i.e. phone numbers and email addresses) in their AERIES Parent Portal to ensure that you receive regular and important information related to school. Please take a moment to review your contact information. Any changes can be made through AERIES directly. For more hands-on assistance, please contact our Registrar, Erica Providenza (415) 492-3106 for help in English or our Community Liaison, Nubia Barajas (415) 559-3259 for help in Spanish.

Lastly, a reminder that an excellent way to stay updated about Terra Linda High School events is through our Parent Newsletter. Please take time to sign up for our Parent Newsletter. I thank you for your partnership and please email me at kdunlap@srcs.org if you have any questions.

Katy Dunlap | Principal | Terra Linda High School