

# COMMUNITY LINKS H.S. NEWSLETTER

## Principal's Corner *NEW YEAR MESSAGE*

Here at Community Links, we're preparing for the end of the 1st Semester. It's been a long journey for everyone. Thank you to all our staff, teachers, students, and parents that helped us get us here.

Of course, with the end of the semester comes final exams -- a crucial part of every student's grade. In most classes, exams are worth 10% of the total semester grade -- which means that they can make or break a student's GPA depending on how well they do!

Each teacher treats final exams differently. Some do a traditional test, others choose projects or essays. Please ask your student what their finals will be in each class, and how they are preparing for them. If your student is unsure, they need to reach out to their teachers! Communication is key at this time. I always say that it's important to finish strong so we all can begin the 2nd Semester even stronger and prepared to take on new challenges.

By enrolling in Community Links, our students took on the challenge of a three-year high school, so every credit counts. We need them to pass, but more importantly, we need them to learn and grow as young adults so they can make informed decisions throughout their lives. We all share in the challenge together as a school community. So please reach out if you need support.

With a new semester comes a new chance to get involved in the fun programs after school! You can find a list of ways to get involved on our website, which was recently redesigned by Mr. Figueroa!



## Happy New Year!

*from Community Links High School*

We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season!

The start of a new year, 2021, also saw the inauguration of a new President, as well as the distribution of vaccines to prevent the spread of Covid-19. We believe it will be a much better year than the last. Hope is in the air!

### Important Dates

- February 1-4** -- Semester Exams
- February 2** -- Elementary/High School Local School Council Meeting @ 9 AM
- February 4** -- End of 1st Semester
- February 5** -- No School -- Institute Day
- February 8** -- Start of 2nd Semester
- February 15** -- Presidents Day, No School
- February 19** -- Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting @ 9AM

**Note: All meetings are held virtually for safety.**

**To join the PAC, click the link above or dial 814-503-0408 and enter PIN: 423 951 331#**

**For other meeting links, see our website.**

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## The Real-World Uses of Exponential Functions by Mr. Swierczewski

The most frequent question in my math class is "How can I bring up my grade?" But the second-most frequent question is "When will we use this in the real world?" It's a frustrating question for many teachers, but there are answers!

Currently, students in Algebra 2 are studying exponential functions. Exponential models are complicated, but essential to track the growth of things like loan interests and investments. Exponential functions involve multiplying the current amount by the growth amount to predict its rise.

Why should students learn to evaluate exponential functions? They are crucial to financial literacy and acquiring wealth. When buying a new car, exponential functions can predict the value of that car after a certain amount of time. Knowing how to evaluate that function is critical, especially when taking out a loan to pay for the car.

In addition to being used in finance, exponential functions can also model the growth of a virus such as Covid-19. Scientists all over the world are currently using such models to help them predict and react to the pandemic. Who would have guessed that math would save our lives?

### Math Joke:

6 was scared of 7 because 7 8 9, but why did 7 eat 9?

Because you're supposed to eat 3 squared meals a day.

### Contributors

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## What is JROTC? by Lieutenant Colonel Stewart

One of the unique aspects of Community Links is our JROTC program, a class that serves to fulfill the students' physical education credit. But what do students learn in the class?

JROTC, or the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, has programs for each military branch. Community Links students belong to the U.S. Army JROTC. The program is designed to build character and citizenship in youth. They aim to "instill in students... the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment."

Programs are located in high schools all over the country, and 50% of the students served (called Cadets) are students of color. As Cadets progress through the program, they experience opportunities to lead other Cadets, which builds their leadership skills for the real world.

The course curriculum covers a wide range of topics, including health and wellness, physical fitness, geography, American government, and ethics. With a wide variety of content to choose from, JROTC has the ability to appeal to all students no matter their personal or academic interests.

There are also opportunities for Cadets to participate in extracurricular activities that reinforce coursework. Some of the extracurricular activities offered at Community Links have included Color Guard, Drill Team, and a physical fitness competition known as JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge (JCLC). All of these activities promote cooperation and leadership, in addition to being enjoyable for students. Although many of these activities are on hold during the pandemic, we plan to resume them when we are able.

