



TOLLAND HIGH SCHOOL

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November 25, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last year, the Tolland Board of Education approved a new set of graduation requirements that impact the current freshmen and sophomore classes. These graduation requirements were generated after careful consideration of the Strategic School Planning Focus Groups' feedback, a student survey and a staff survey about important 21st century skills, and Tolland High School's statement of core values and beliefs about learning. There are significant changes from the previous set of requirements that have been made.

The complete Tolland Board of Education Policy 6011 on Graduation Requirements can be found on the Tolland Public Schools webpage under the "Board of Education" tab. The policy states that graduates in the classes of 2016 and later will demonstrate:

- * Effective communication through reading, writing, and speaking;*
- * Effective problem solving and critical thinking skills;*
- * Effective use and application of technology;*
- * Personal responsibility and productivity through positive contributions to society;*
- * Interpersonal skills that actively support and contribute to the community and school environment;*
and
- * Skills for personal growth as well as cultural and global awareness.*

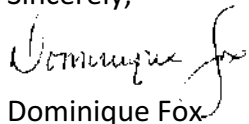
Each of the above stated academic, social, and civic learning expectations has a corresponding school-wide analytic rubric on which students will be informed of their progress toward meeting proficient or exemplary status. These rubrics will be used in various classes throughout a student's experience at Tolland High School. Parents can view the core values, beliefs about learning, and learning expectations as well as the corresponding rubrics through the Tolland High School website under the "School Info" tab. Data will be provided to parents on a quarterly basis through the Power School Parent Portal. In order to meet the graduation expectations, students must achieve an average of 3 (proficient) for each of the rubrics over the most recent four quarters.

Students in the freshmen and sophomore classes are becoming familiar with the rubrics that are being used to assess their progress in each of the academic, social, and civic areas listed above. During the Advisory session on November 19, students discussed the “Verified Service to the School or Community” requirement on the Personal Responsibility rubric. Students in the freshmen and sophomore classes are required to complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service over the course of their high school experience to meet proficiency on this indicator on the rubric. Acts of service must be completed without the expectation of money, goods, or services in return. Supervisors for the activity must verify the service project and the hours completed. Forms that need to be filled out to account for community service hours were provided to the students and are available in the School Counseling Office and on the school website. These forms should be turned into School Counselors as community service hours are completed.

During a student’s junior and senior years, correspondence will be sent to families about current standing toward graduation requirements. However, as was mentioned earlier, quarterly progress can be viewed through the Power School Parent Portal.

We look forward to working with our students on achieving these 21st century learning expectations during their high school experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dominique Fox". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dominique Fox
Principal