

January 12, 2012

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you of some changes that will take place immediately within our Mexican American Studies, (MAS), program. On Tuesday, January 10, 2012, TUSD's Governing Board voted 4-1 that: "All MAS courses and teaching activities, regardless of the budget line from which they are funded, shall be suspended immediately." Further, "Students currently enrolled in MAS courses shall be transferred to new or existing sections of other courses, so that they do not lose the opportunity to earn credits and to satisfy requirements because of the suspension of the MAS course." Tucson High will comply with the resolution and immediately cease teaching the following Mexican American Studies courses: Latino Literature 5-6, Latino Literature 7-8, American History with a Mexican American Studies perspective, and American Government with a Mexican American Studies perspective. There are a total of 9 classes at our school directly affected by this decision.

At Tucson High the students enrolled in MAS courses will remain in the same classrooms with the same teachers who will now be teaching standard, grade level courses. The Governing Board resolution does not impact MAS credits previously earned by the TUSD students. Additionally, no students will lose the opportunity to earn credits and to satisfy requirements because of the suspension of the MAS courses.

TUSD will begin revising its social studies core curriculum to increase its coverage of Mexican-American history and culture, including a balanced presentation of diverse viewpoints on controversial issues. Additionally, TUSD will design new measures to narrow the achievement gaps for traditionally underserved and economically disadvantaged students.

Tucson High will work closely with our Superintendent and his staff to get through this transition period, and to address the educational needs of each of our students. If you have questions regarding this program or this letter, please contact me at 225-5003.

Sincerely,

Abel Morado, Ed.D.
Principal, Tucson High Magnet School