

Huntsville High School PTSA
Standard 3: Supporting Student Success

Huntsville High School (HHS) works closely with its PTSA and the HHS administration to support student success across all four HHS grades. The PTSA has an Executive Board 1st V.P. Leadership Development position, and an Executive Board (SA) Committee position under the position of President that are dedicated to supporting student success within HHS. In addition to looking at academic grades as a component for quarterly achievement rewards, the PTSA Student Achievement (SA) Committee has succeeded in looking at different aspects of student achievement, to encourage recognition of a diverse group of the overall 1,830 student population within HHS.

Implementation: The SA Committee was created during the 2016-2017 school year to support HHS's Assistant Principal (AP) in encouraging students to attend school regularly and on time, encourage positive classroom and school behaviors, and to get high classroom grades. Each quarter during the 2016-2017 school year, the criteria to receive an SA drawing item was as follows: students with zero unexcused absences, < 3 unexcused tardies (any class), zero Office Discipline Referrals (ODRs), and A/B classroom grades. Approximately 200 students (50 per quarter) received an award through the 2016-2017 school year.

During the 1st quarter of the 2017-2018 school year, the AP identified 24 students with zero unexcused absences, zero unexcused tardies (any class), zero ODRs, and A classroom grades. All of these students were able to choose an SA item as a reward for meeting that quarter's SA criteria. The AP then conducted a random drawing for an additional 37 students with zero unexcused absences, less than 3 tardies, zero ODRs, and A classroom grades. Finally, the VP randomly selected 36 students that met the attendance and behavior criteria, and had A/B classroom grades.

During the 2nd quarter of the 2017-2018 school year, the criteria was set as: each of the 106 HHS teachers was given opportunity to nominate one student (to include B/C students) who had gone above and beyond her/his potential for that quarter. The AP cross-referenced this list of students with that quarter's attendance, tardy, and ODR list, and with students selected via random drawing during the 1st quarter SA drawing. This resulted in the recognition of 28 students. Additionally, 142 students with all A classroom grades, zero unexcused absences, zero unexcused tardies, and zero ODRs were provided an opportunity to select an SA item. Seeing some of the students come in during this quarter's SA drawing was truly heartwarming! Many of these

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students were not the typical “high grades” students who often get recognized for accomplishments in many areas. The students were very enthusiastic about being selected, and for the opportunity to choose an SA item.

During the 3rd quarter of 2017-2018, the SA criteria will be set as: each of the HHS Arts, Clubs, and Sports teams will be given an opportunity to nominate a student who has gone above and beyond their potential for that quarter. The final quarter of the school year will include criteria around improved attendance, tardies and classroom grades over the course of the 2017-2018 school year. Each quarter, the students are more enthusiastic about the SA drawing days, and the SA items that they may choose from. The HHS Principal and AP say that the program is gaining momentum and excitement around the student body this school year, and that they are both very appreciative for HHS PTSA’s assistance in recognizing HHS students. The program has grown tremendously this year!

The SA Committee has enlisted the support of the community around HHS to assist in funding the PTSA’s SA program. The SA PTSA budget line was reduced from \$500 to \$200 for the 2017-2018 school year. To supplement this reduced funding, the committee increased their requests for support from community businesses. During 2017-2018, two community donors contributed \$200 each to support the program. Another 35 donors have contributed consumables, gift cards, and activity passes for the drawings, to total \$9,200 of drawing items (837 item count). Three of these donors are HHS Football, Basketball, and the HHS Theatre department. Donating to the PTSA (and ultimately to HHS students and their guests), in turn supports these athletic and arts programs through event attendance and advertising of these programs. As appreciation for support, the SA committee highlights all of the SA donors for several weeks in a weekly PTSA newsletter, and on the PTSA Facebook page.