February X, 201X

Dear Awesome AF AHS Parents,

Greetings from the Summer Program Department at AF Amistad High School! If you are receiving this letter, it is because back in December your scholar was notified that they pre-qualified to be a pre-college scholar for the summer of 2011. Congratulations!

**What does this mean?**At AF AHS, it is a graduation requirement that all scholars participate in a school approved summer program all three summers of their high school careers (between 9th, 10th and 11th grades). There are three tiers to the AECHS summer program that a scholar can fall into:

1. ***Pre-College Scholar:*** scholar has a GPA of 2.8 or better and a consistent merit average of
 80.

2. ***Internship Scholar:*** scholar has passed all of their academic classes and a consistent merit
 average of 75.

3. ***Summer Academy Scholar:*** scholar needs to make up an academic credit and will have the
 chance to participate in a Growth Opportunity program after their classes end for the day!

Back in December, your scholar got an invitation to our Pre-College Summer Programs meeting. We also made two phone calls home in the week prior to the meeting on December XX to let parents know we were excited to share all of the opportunities available to Pre-College scholars. We wanted to be sure that all scholars who were eligible for Pre-College programs were well aware!

To date, your scholar has **not** responded to this invitation and/or has not attended any of the Pre-College “Sundae Sunday” workshops that AF AHS has been running every Sunday, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. since January 9th.

 **What is a “Sundae Sunday”?**
A “Sundae Sunday” is what we call the series of workshops run by the Summer Programs department to help scholars through the often tedious task of applying to various pre-college programs—and we eat ice cream at the same time. Hence the term, “Sundae Sunday.”

 **Why does this matter?**
This matters for a number of reasons that only serve to benefit your scholar.

* Pre-College programs look PHENOMENAL on a scholar’s resume/transcript. Our alumni who have received the best financial aid packages to college have all participated in Pre-College summer programs.
* Attending the Sundae Sunday workshops is a great way for underclassmen to get a good idea of what the actual college process will be like in their senior year. That way, the process does not seem so overwhelming, because they will have had lots of practice as an underclassman.
* Attending the Sundae Sunday workshops allows scholars to be supported in the process of applying to Pre-College Summer programs without affecting their regular school work/homework
* Attending the Sundae Sunday workshops makes you immediately eligible for the Pre-College summer program scholarships that AF AHS provides—scholars should not have to worry about cost in order to do something amazing that they have earned!
* Pre-College programs help scholars begin to decide what kind of college experience they want to have and what they might want to study!

**What does it mean if my scholar is qualified to be a Pre-College scholar but has never gone to a Sundae Sunday Workshop?**A qualified pre-college scholar is *still* a pre-college scholar, even if they have never attended a Sundae Sunday Workshop. However, it means that those scholars have missed out on a lot of work and time to get through the pre-college application process. They are still eligible to apply, but they are not at the top of the list to receive an AECHS scholarship. We will prioritize the scholarships for the pre-college scholars who have been coming to the workshops and completing the application process in a timely manner.

**But what if my scholar can make up that time somehow? Can they still get the scholarship?**YES! We want all of our scholars to have the opportunities available to them. There is a make-up “Super Sundae Sunday” on Sunday, February XX, from XXXX to XXXX. Scholars who are interested in catching up on the Sundae Sunday pre-college application process can do so then!

**What if my scholar does not ever go to a workshop/work with Ms. Holland or an assigned coach—are they still pre-college eligible?**YES! They are still pre-college eligible but they will not be given priority for scholarships. Priority will be given based on Sundae Sunday attendance and percentage of completion in the pre-college application process. We will still support them in fundraising, however, and give them all of the resources and guidance that all of the other pre-college summer scholars will receive.

**What about cost? What would we be financially responsible for?**In the world of pre-college programs, AF AHS provides the best bargain one could ever hope to find. These programs typically cost hundreds—usually thousands—of dollars for anywhere from three days to five works. Part of what the Summer Programs department works to do is get the best possible deal from all of the programs that we work with. AF AHS works very hard to provide scholarships to cover the tuition of the programs.

That being said, pre-college scholars are responsible for contributing $200.00 to their program, as well as travel and any on-campus expenses they incur. They will be given fundraising kits that allow them to fundraise that money, as well as a number of fundraising activities that AECHS will host that all pre-college scholars are welcome to take part in. Last year, we had more than 30 scholars participate in pre-college programs and it was financially feasible for everyone.

**What if my scholar is qualified but does not want to go to a pre-college program?**Honestly, that would be a shame. This is an incredibly big honor that your scholar has worked really hard for that ultimately leads to more college prospects and better chances for great financial aid packages. In the end, though, if that’s the choice that a scholar makes, then please know that all scholars are still required to participate in a school-sanctioned summer program.

**What if I have more questions?**
That’s great! It would be wonderful to talk to any and all parents who are interested in the Summer Programs department at AF AHS. Please call Ms. Holland at 203-200-8955 or send an e-mail to maryannholland@achievementfirst.org.

Working for Scholar Summer Fun,

MaryAnn Holland