

THEODORE BIRD HIGH SCHOOL

251-A So. Barretta Street
Sonora, CA 95370
(209) 532-1587 Ext 2
FAX (209) 533-0980

PHILOSOPHY AND METHOD OF EDUCATION

In recognition that some students can learn best in settings other than conventional classrooms, the Sonora Union High School District (SUHSD) offers a program of independent and flexible study arrangements through Theodore Bird High School. Established in August 1994, Ted Bird High School is located on the District's Alternative Education Campus at the Dome.

All courses are taught via the independent study method, with many taught through the Apex online program. Students do not attend daily classes. Instead, each student meets with an instructor one-to-one, or in a small group, at a pre-arranged time and place each week. The instructor assigns course work, which is to be completed by the student on their own time. The completed work is evaluated by the instructor at the next weekly meeting. It is the responsibility of the student and parent to ensure the student attends this appointment and has all their assigned work completed and turned in every week.

The purpose of the school is:

1. To offer students who cannot attend the comprehensive high school the opportunity to complete their high school education.
2. To offer students a program of personalized instruction to meet their varying needs and ability levels.
3. To offer students classes and activities which will enable them to increase their general knowledge and assist them in the development of self-discipline and self-confidence.
4. To help students set and attain personal, academic, and career goals.
5. To enrich the lives of the individual students served, and thereby enrich the community life as well.

ENROLLMENT

For a Sonora High School student to enroll in Ted Bird High School, the student must first contact a Sonora High School administrator or counselor. The administrator or counselor will advise the student of the appropriate steps to take at Sonora High School to apply for admission to Ted Bird High School.

Students who attend a school other than Sonora High School, will need to contact the Alternative Education Principal at the Alternative Education Campus.

The Independent Study Coordinator or an assigned teacher will contact students accepted for enrollment.

Attendance

The California Education Code 48200 states:

“Each person between the ages of 6 and 18 years is subject to compulsory full-time education. Each person subject to compulsory full-time education and each person subject to compulsory continuation education...shall attend the public full-time day school or continuation school or classes for the full-time designated as the length of the school day by the governing board of the school district in which the residency of either the parent or legal guardian (resides).”

At Ted Bird High School, each student will meet once each week with their teacher. However, the teacher may require the student to meet more often than once each week, depending upon the student's needs and program design. If a student is unable to make an appointment, it is their responsibility to contact the teacher or program coordinator so that an alternate time can be arranged.

Ted Bird High School students who do not complete their assignments or miss appointments, will be dropped from the school in order to make room for students waiting for an opportunity to enroll.

THEODORE BIRD HIGH SCHOOL: 532-1587 EXT 2

ATTENDANCE DROP POLICY

Students are expected to keep all appointments except in cases of illness or emergencies and their Teacher must be notified prior to the absence. If a student fails to notify their Teacher and misses an appointment the following will take place:

1 unexcused absence- Teacher will notify parent/guardian of students' lack of participation within one school day of the absence or lack of participation.

2 unexcused absences- Teacher/Counselor will schedule a meeting with parent/guardian, site administrator and outside agencies if needed.

3 unexcused absences- Teacher will schedule a meeting with parent/guardian, student and site administrator to review written agreement and reconsider the independent study program's impact on the student's achievement and well being.

The decision to drop a student from Ted Bird High School is made by the Alternative Education Principal after considering the teacher's recommendation. Students under the age of 18 who are dropped, will be transferred to another school or program. Students over the age of 18 who are dropped, will be referred to either Sonora Adult School or Columbia College.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To earn a diploma of graduation from Theodore Bird High School, a student must do the following:

1. Complete two hundred twenty (220) credits, divided as follows:

- 40 credits in English
- 20 credits in Math (including 10 units of Math 1)
- 10 credits in Physical Science
- 10 credits in Life Science
- 10 credits in Life Skills
- 10 credits in World Cultures
- 10 credits in U.S. History
- 5 credits in Civics
- 5 credits in Economics
- 10 credits in Fine Arts or Foreign Language
- 20 credits in Physical Education
- 70 credits in Electives
- 220 credits

2. Complete a residence requirement of fifteen (15) credits in Ted Bird High School.

GRADING POLICY

Most grading is on an academic scale. (See below.) The student should talk with the instructor to understand exactly how he/she will be graded. Usually the grade is determined by the quality of the completed schoolwork, the percentage completed of the semester's required schoolwork, and scores on tests or quizzes.

90%-100% = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60%-69% = D

0%-59% = F

Pass (60%+) or Fail



Evaluation of the student's work may be through:

Correctness of assignments

Written reports and essays

Oral presentations

Demonstration of skills/competencies

Written/oral quizzes or tests

A student must earn at least 75 hours per class of schoolwork to qualify for a 5-credit course and at least 38 hours per class of schoolwork for a 2.5-credit course.

CREDIT

In most cases, a maximum of thirty credits can be earned during a semester. Credits are granted upon the successful completion of 75 hours/credit and all contracted course work for a class. Two subjects are assigned for six weeks, or three subjects are assigned for nine weeks during an 18-week semester.

If a student wishes to “makeup” or add an extra class, he/she must prove the ability to be successful. This is done by first passing 30 credits of schoolwork. Then, if time permits, the student can attempt to makeup or add a class.

Additional credit may be earned through employment experience, college courses, and other off-campus programs.

GRADES/CREDIT DROP POLICY

If a student scores under 60% in any subject area over three appointments, an evaluation meeting will be scheduled by the teacher with the student's parent/guardian and counselor. During evaluation meetings, it will be determined whether it is in student's best interest to remain in an independent study program if satisfactory educational progress is not being made.

WORK PERMITS- GRADES/CREDIT DROP POLICY

Students under 18 must have a Work Permit to hold a job during the school year. Work Permits may be obtained from Donna Berry in the Alternative Education Office. Students may earn up to ten (10) credits of Employment Experience each semester depending on the number of hours they work.

GRADUATION CAP AND GOWN

Our school campus received a grant to purchase graduation Caps & Gowns to be used as rentals for years to come so there is no need to pre-order caps & gowns. We ask for a payment of \$20.00 to cover the costs of the tassels and diploma covers. If finances are an issue, please come to the office and discuss this with Donna. Tassels are optional and not a required purchase. However, if you choose to purchase a tassel, they are \$10.00.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Mid February: Scholarship Packets available. See your teacher for details.

Mid April: “Standard” Scholarship Application due in the Alternative Education Office. -Standard App. available all year on District website-
www.sonorahs.k12.ca.us.chs/students/scholarships/

**PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR TEACHER FOR MORE
INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS**

TED BIRD HIGH SCHOOL & COLUMBIA COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

Independent Study students may enroll concurrently at Columbia College and earn high school and college credits at the same time. To participate in this program, students must:

- apply to and be accepted by Columbia College
- be registered in one or more college classes while being enrolled in Bird HS
- complete a concurrent release form each semester

Students in this program will have their Columbia College registration fees waived!

Students interested in this program, should contact
Independent Study Coordinator Jeff Hansten (532-1587 ext 5060)

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Winter weather conditions, especially heavy snow and/or ice, sometimes cause the district to close school or postpone the start of the instructional day. Listen to your local radio station or go to www.sonorahs.k12.ca.us to get up-to-the minute details about school closures or delays. Bird HS teachers will call students impacted by adverse weather conditions.

THEODORE BIRD HIGH SCHOOL STAFF MEMBERS

Principal:	Robert Mayben	rmayben@sonorahs.k12.ca.us
Secretary/Registrar:	Donna Berry	dberry@sonorahs.k12.ca.us
Bird H.S. Coordinator:	Jeff Hansten	jhansten@sonorahs.k12.ca.us
Teachers:	Cathy Atkins	catkins@sonorahs.k12.ca.us
	Sandy Myers	smyers@sonorahs.k12.ca.us
Counselor:	Eric Knapp	eknapp@sonorahs.k12.ca.us

THEODORE BIRD HIGH SCHOOL

EXPECTED SCHOOL-WIDE LEARNING RESULTS

BIRD HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WILL BE:

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS WHO:

- **Apply reading, writing, and technology skills to meet graduation requirements.**
- **Participate in a weekly review with teacher to assess academic progress.**

MEASURABLE INDICATORS:

- Survey data, benchmarks common assessments
- Number of students in online learning programs

EFFECTIVE CRITICAL THINKERS WHO:

- **Solve problems through the effective use of technology.**
- **Question, analyze, and evaluate information and ideas.**
- **Demonstrate ability to use reasoning skills to solve complex problems within content area standards.**

MEASURABLE INDICATORS:

- Standardized test scores
- Demonstration of mastery on course requirements

GOAL ORIENTED STUDENT WHO:

- **Enroll in alternative credit courses or programs.**
- **Secure measurable goals that are both personal and professional.**
- **Develop a plan to achieve post graduation goals.**

MEASURABLE INDICATORS:

- Graduation survey
- Senior essay
- Achievement on formative and summative assessments

RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS WHO:

- **Exhibit good study/work habits including regular attendance and punctuality.**
- **Demonstrate understanding of political and economic systems and the role they play globally.**
- **Act responsibly in school, at home, and in the community.**

MEASURABLE INDICATORS:

- Positive consistent attendance
- Completion of work in a timely manner
- Successful completion of coursework to high acceptable standards
- Enrollment in ROP, Columbia College, or college courses

Theodore Bird High School

Independent Study Course List

ART

Basic Drawing 1-2
Music Appreciation
Creative Art Projects
Art 1-2
Community Based Art

MATHEMATICS

Math 1
Math 2
Math 3
Consumer Math

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. – Physical Activities
P.E. – Health, Wellness & Nutrition
P.E. – Community-Based Education

SCIENCE

Life Science
Biology
Earth Science
Physical Science

ELECTIVES

Health
Sociology
Fitness & Nutrition
Parenting
Psychology
Employment Experience
Career Planning
Community Based Education
Life-long Reading for Enjoyment
Film Appreciation
Vocabulary
Geography 1-2
Art Appreciation
Music Appreciation
Financial Literacy
Business Applications
APEX courses in various subjects

English

American Literature
Creative Writing
English 1-2
English 3-4
English 5-6
English 7-8
World Literature

SOCIAL STUDIES

Life Skills 1-2
World History 1-2
U.S. History 1-2
American Government
Economics

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Automotive Technology
Construction Technology
Cosmetology
Culinary Arts
Marketing
Photography

** College-Preparatory courses meeting A-G requirements are available through Ted Bird High School. Contact your student's counselor to discuss enrollment in these courses if your student is interested in attending a University upon high school graduation.

**SONORA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUS**

CODE OF CONDUCT

Respect

All students are expected to:

- ◆ respect themselves
- ◆ respect other students (emotionally and physically)
- ◆ respect all staff members
- ◆ respect individual and school property

Trust

All students are trusted to:

- ◆ be where they are supposed to be at all times
- ◆ be drug and alcohol free while at school
- ◆ be on time and prepared to learn
- ◆ be honest
- ◆ keep a positive attitude

Communication

All students are expected to:

- ◆ tell the truth
- ◆ refrain from profanity and verbal abuse
- ◆ follow directions from staff
- ◆ be good listeners
- ◆ actively participate in the strategies of Conflict Resolution

BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

Students are responsible for their behavior and they will be held accountable for their actions. The **Alternative Education Campus Code of Conduct** (see previous page) gives students a “blueprint” for positive and productive behavior.

School rules and regulations encourage students to be active learners; provide an atmosphere whereby teaching and learning can flourish; and maintain order, health, and safety.

The students at Theodore Bird High School can expect to be treated in a fair and consistent manner by all staff members who will also explain the consequences of persistent refusal to comply with school rules.

VISITING OTHER DISTRICT SCHOOLS AND CAMPUSES

Ted Bird High School students may be on the Alternative Education Campus for their weekly hour-long appointment, for any other study sessions previously arranged with their Ted Bird High School teacher, or quickly to drop off homework. Other than that, Ted Bird High School students may not be on or near (within 1000 yards) the Alternative Education Campus or the Sonora High School Campus between 7:30 am and 4:00 pm unless they have permission and a guest pass from the appropriate administrator.

HARASSMENT

Harassment of students or staff in any form, including bullying, cyber-bullying, intimidation, hazing or initiation activity, ridicule, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause bodily harm or emotional suffering will result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension and/or expulsion.

CYBER-BULLYING

Cyber-bullying includes the transmission of communications, posting of harassing messages, direct threats, social cruelty, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device.

Cyber-bullying also includes breaking into another student’s electronic account and assuming that person’s identity in order to damage that person’s reputation or friendships.

Any student who engages in cyber-bullying using district-owned equipment, on school premises, or off-campus in a manner that impacts school activity or school attendance shall be subject to discipline in accordance with district policies and regulations.

Students are encouraged to save and print any messages sent to them that they feel constitute cyber-bullying and to notify a teacher, the counselor, the principal, or any other employees so that the matter may be investigated.

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

The Sonora Union High School District has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy, which makes it mandatory that in certain situations disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, be considered. These behaviors include fighting; threatening others; possession of, or the use of, drugs or alcohol during the school day; being intoxicated while at school; any form of bullying or sexual harassment, including by use of an electronic device; and possession of, or use of, anything that can be used as a weapon.

SONORA HIGH SCHOOL DANCES

PRIVILEGES, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES

With the exception of the Fall Formal and the Prom, Theodore Bird High School students must be the guest of a Sonora High School student – with a guest pass issued by Sonora HS – to attend any of the dances offered at SHS during the school year.

For the Fall Formal and the Prom, students at Bird HS and the other Alternative Education Campus programs may buy bids and attend the dance(s) providing they follow these procedures:

- The request to attend the Fall Formal or the Prom must be approved at least one full day ahead of the dance by the Alternative Education Principal and the Sonora HS Site Administration.
- The student(s) requesting to attend may not be on suspension.
- A non-SUHSD student attending as a guest must be under 21 and must secure a guest pass from the Alternative Education Principal. The Bird HS student is responsible for his/her guest's behavior.
- The Bird HS student(s) and any guests must follow the same rules and regulations that apply to Sonora HS students attending dances, including the following:
 - Students must have a current school ID with a picture.
 - Students and guests suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs will be referred to an administrator and/or the police.
 - Students who endanger the safety or themselves or others will be referred to an administrator.
 - Students must refrain from sexually explicit dancing or inappropriate displays of affection.
 - Students may not wear shoes on the gym floor.
 - Students asked to leave a dance for any reason will not be allowed at any dances for the remainder of the year.
 - Once students have entered the dance, they may not leave and re-enter. The doors will be closed one hour after the dance begins, and students may not leave until the last hour of the dance. Students will not be allowed to leave early without a parent note or call.