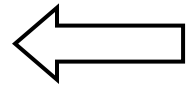


JUST FOR JUNIORS

January 2012



Your senior year is rapidly approaching and there are many things that you should be doing to prepare for graduation and college or the world of work. Below, you will find a listing of upcoming events that may be important to your future.

CITIZENSHIP

For your information, especially during your senior year, you need to remember to balance the fun in your life with your educational goals and responsibilities. Besides having the necessary credits needed for graduation, good citizenship must also be maintained. Be aware that the following reasons can keep you from participating in the graduation ceremony:

- ❑ The high school administration reserves the right to exclude a student from the graduation ceremony and related activities for a flagrant infraction of the school's disciplinary code, irrespective of the student's citizenship status.
- ❑ Any senior using or possessing alcohol or illegal drugs as referred to in the Health and Safety Code, Chapter II, Section 11053, Division 10, including steroids, at any school sponsored activity will lose the privilege of marching at graduation [BP5127 (a)].
- ❑ Any senior who is suspended four (4) or five (5) days for a single offense within the fourth quarter will lose all eligibility to participate in senior activities, including the graduation ceremony.
- ❑ Every senior needs to meet the attendance eligibility requirements in order to walk at graduation.

Remember.....You are considered a senior as of Thursday, June 14, 2012, and **all** rules for seniors begin at that time.

ACADEMIC RECOVERY/SUMMER SCHOOL

Due to a decrease in funding, Academic Recovery and Summer School programs have been eliminated. It is EXTREMELY important that you do everything legally possible to make sure that you pass all of your classes!

TUTORING

Peer tutors are in the AHS Library during Study Hall. Students are assigned to tutoring. See Ms. Cabalar if you are interested in tutoring.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Many high school juniors have not yet decided what they want to do after high school. A community college provides great opportunities to explore options before committing to a university. Cuesta College as well as over 100 other community colleges in California offer outstanding programs which include preparing students for transfer to a university as well as for the world of work. Some of the programs available include 3-D animation, respiratory therapy, energy systems for power generation technology, veterinary technician, diesel technology and nursing. Don't forget to check out the numerous opportunities available to you through the California Community System.

ARMY! NAVY! AIR FORCE! MARINES!

There are Military Recruiters on our campus on a regular basis. If you have any questions or would like to meet with a recruiter see your counselor for more info or to set up a meeting.

COLLEGE SELECTION

Now is the time to start making college visitations. Many colleges and universities will be open spring break. If you are in the area, stop by and see if that campus is a place you might like to continue your education. Summer is also a good time to "check out" colleges. If you have the opportunity, be sure to visit the college before you apply for admission. Admission deadlines happen very quickly in your senior year so you don't want to make your college selection decisions at the last minute. Also, if you receive less than a "C" grade in your A-G academic requirements, please see your counselor.

COLLEGE TOURS

Have you considered a campus tour? Many colleges offer tours of their campuses. If you are interested in touring a specific campus, check their website for more information. Cal Poly offers one campus tour and an admissions presentation every weekday. Check their website for more information or call 805-756-5734. Cuesta College North Campus also conducts guided tours of the campus. Please call 805-591-6220 for more information.

COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT

College information night will be on Monday, February 6th from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. College eligibility requirements, SAT/ACT, High School graduation, A-G requirements will all be covered. Please make every effort to come and get your scores.

SAT, ACT, AND SAT SUBJECT TESTS

Now is the time to be seriously considering choosing your test dates for the SAT, ACT or ACT with Writing and SAT Subject Tests. College bound juniors should take these tests in the spring of their junior year. Students wanting to attend a California State University may choose the SAT or ACT. University of California bound students must take the SAT or ACT with the ACT Writing Test.

The results of either one of these tests combined with grades are the main admission criteria used by California State Universities and are extremely important admission standards for the University of California and many private colleges and if you need to improve your scores, you may retake the test at one of the fall test dates.

While **SAT Subject Tests** are not required, some campuses recommend that students vying for slots in competitive majors take the test to demonstrate subject proficiency.

RECOMMENDED SAT SUBJECT TESTS

Remember, these are recommendations not mandates. You will not be penalized for failing to take SAT Subject Tests.

Campus Recommendations

A few UC campuses recommend you take certain SAT Subject Test recommendations for specific colleges or schools and majors. Even if subject tests are not recommended, they do add merit to a student's application.

Berkley

College of Chemistry and Engineering: Along with looking for evidence of high academic performance in math and science, the presence of SAT Subject Test, particularly in a science and math Level 2, is considered a plus.

Davis

SAT Subject Tests are not recommended in any area.

Irvine

Sat Subject Tests scores serve as a value-added component in the application evaluation.

Los Angeles

Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science: Math Level 2 and science are recommended and considered as value-added achievements during the application evaluation.

Merced

SAT Subject Tests are not recommended in any area.

Riverside

College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and Bourns College of Engineering: Math Level 2 and Chemistry or Physics are strongly recommended.

San Diego

Jacobs School of Engineering and Division of Biological Science: SAT Subject Tests in Math Level 2 and sciences are recommended and considered as value-added achievements during the application evaluation.

Santa Barbara

College of Engineering: Math Level 2

College of Creative Studies:

Literature for literature majors

Math Level 2 for math majors

Math Level 2 and Physics for physics majors

Biology for biology and chemistry majors

Math Level 2 for computer science majors

College of Letters and Sciences: Although they won't be required, test scores will be considered as value added achievements during the application evaluation.

Santa Cruz:

SAT Subject Tests not recommended in any area.

COMPARING THE SAT I WITH THE ACT

The SAT and ACT are very different tests. The SAT measures abstract reasoning while the ACT is focused to measure acquired knowledge or factual information. Both the SAT and ACT are accepted by all state funded universities and most private universities. Talk to your counselor for advice as to which test may be best for you.

SAT I/SAT SUBJECT TEST REGISTRATION DEADLINES

The registration deadline for the March 10 test is February 10, 2012.

The registration deadline for the May 5 test is April 6, 2012.

The registration deadline for the June 2 test is May 8, 2012.

ACT TEST REGISTRATION DEADLINE

The registration deadline for the April 14 test is March 9, 2012.

The registration deadline for the June 9 test is May 4, 2012.

Students needing help filling out their SAT, SAT Subject Test, or ACT forms should come to the Counseling Office at lunch on any day. A counselor will be available to help you. Registration forms can be completed online. Mail or transmit your forms early so that you can test at the center you request.

BE WISE - If you are interested in applying to **San Diego State, Long Beach State, Chico State, and/or Cal Poly SLO**, try to complete all college entrance tests by **October**. College entrance tests for the rest of the CSU and UC campuses should be completed by November.

FINANCIAL AID/SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Many students have been asking, "When should I begin applying for scholarships?" The answer is NOW! The Internet is full of free scholarship searches and scholarship listings. Students who do not have access to the Internet at home may use the Library during break time to search for many scholarship opportunities. Their ID card with an Internet Sticker is needed.

Students and parents are often concerned about the amount of money they will be required to contribute to the post-high school education. The California State University system offers the Preliminary Aid Information System (PAIS) found at www.csumentor.edu, which is available to give parents an idea of how much your family will be expected to pay at a CSU. The Internet also has other free financial aid need estimators, such as www.finaid.org, which are easily accessed.

- ❑ Other addresses for excellent information regarding scholarships, financial aid information, scholarship scams, and college selection are on the last page of **Just for Juniors**. Try some of them. Atascadero High School has its own web site. The Counseling Office publishes pertinent information each month. Check it out @ www.atas.k12.ca.us/ausd/ahs/

NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE FORMS

Students hoping to participate in collegiate sports at a Division I or II level should contact their counselor regarding NCAA Clearinghouse forms and to make sure you meet NCAA academic requirements.

UC PERSONAL STATEMENT FROM 11 – 12 APPLICATIONS

Your personal statement is your chance to tell us who you are and what's important to you. Think of it as your opportunity to introduce yourself to the admissions and scholarship officers reading your application. Be open, be honest, be real. What you tell us in your personal statement gives readers the context to better understand the rest of the information you've provided in your application.

Prompt #1

Describe the world you come from — for example, your family, community or school — and tell us how your world has shaped your dreams and aspirations.

Prompt #2

Tell us about a personal quality, talent, accomplishment, contribution or experience that is important to you. What about this quality or accomplishment makes you proud and how does it relate to the person you are?

Steps to Writing an effective personal statement

1. **Gather Information**
2. Read Critically
3. Develop Topic and Thesis
4. Draft, Get Feedback, Revise

Following is a list of tips that will help you prepare for the scholarship application process. Preparing now will help you save time when you actually start applying during your senior year.

SCHOLARSHIP LETTER TIPS - Below are some essential tips for letters associated with scholarships, including cover letter, recommendation letter, and application request letter and thank you letter:

- ❑ Be brief, you'll have the chance to sell yourself in your application.
- ❑ Request the application early to leave enough time to prepare a strong application packet.
- ❑ If you need a recommendation, clearly state when the deadline is. Give no less than three (3) weeks notice, leaving ample time for the letter to be written. Your recommendation should come from someone who knows you well, but not a family member.
- ❑ Provide your correct address and other contact information where you know you can be reached.
- ❑ If you earn a scholarship, be sure to thank the provider for selecting you as a recipient.

WRITING THE SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY - Below are hints to help you find the best way to put your thoughts down on paper:

- ❑ Think before you write. Brainstorm to generate some good ideas and then create an outline to help you get going.
- ❑ Show, don't tell. Use stories, examples, and anecdotes to individualize your essay. By using specifics, you'll avoid vagueness and make a stronger impression.
- ❑ Develop a theme. Don't simply list all your achievements. Decide on a theme that sums up the impression you want to make. Write about experiences that develop the theme.
- ❑ Make sure your essay is well written. Proofread carefully, check spelling and grammar, and share your essay with friends, family members, or teachers. Another pair of eyes can catch errors you might miss.

CALIFORNIA SCHOLARSHIP FEDERATION (CSF)

The purpose of this statewide honor society is to identify, motivate, and encourage high achieving students. During the beginning of each semester, eligible students may apply for membership. Eligibility is based upon grades earned the previous semester. The advantages for holding membership in CSF include:

1. Promoting interest and pride in achieving high standards of scholarship.
2. Seal bearers with four or more semesters of membership, including one semester in the senior year, will receive:

- * a gold seal on their diploma
- * a record on their transcript
- * recognition at their graduation ceremony
- * an opportunity to compete for CSF scholarships

Check eligibility and/or apply for membership by contacting Ms. Williams in Room H-3.

Important Dates to Remember

January 26	ASVAB Test at AHS, 7:30 am in AHS Library
February 6	College information night at 5:30 p.m. in AHS Library
February 10	Registration deadline for March 10 SAT test
March 9	Registration deadline for April 14 ACT test
April 6	Registration deadline for May 5 SAT test
May 8	Registration deadline for June 2 SAT test
May 4	Registration deadline for June 9 ACT test

TAKE THIS HOME TO YOUR PARENTS SO THAT THEY CAN ALSO BE INFORMED AND HELP YOU MEET ALL YOUR DEADLINES.

ON THE INTERNET

Here are some websites that might come in handy when seeking college and/or financial aid information. Also, check out the Atascadero High School website:

Atascadero High School
www.atascaderohigh.com

California State University
www.csumentor.edu

College Board
www.collegeboard.org

University of California
www.ucop.edu/pathways

**College, Career & Financial Aid
Information**
www.collegeview.com

**U.S. Universities & Community
Colleges**
www.utexas.edu/world/univ/

**College Planning, Careers,
Financial Aid**
www.mapping-your-future.com
available in Spanish

Cuesta College Information
www.cuesta.org

California Community Colleges
www.cccco.edu

EdWise Financial Planner (Edfund)
www.edfund.org/home.html

Financial Aid
www.finaid.org

**Tax Benefits for Higher Education
Brochure (EdFund)**
www.edfund.org/pdfs/i-91.pdf

**FAFSA – Financial Aid Application to
Dept. of Education**
www.fafsa.ed.gov

College & Financial Aid Information
www.collegeanswer.com
**available in Spanish

Scholarship Information
www.fastweb.com

PSAT Information
www.collegeboard.com/psattools

**Information on ALL California
Colleges & Universities**
www.californiacolleges.edu

