



San Mateo High School

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Website: www.sanmateohigh.org

August, 2017

Dear Students and Families of the Class of 2018:

Welcome to your senior year! Before you know it graduation day will be upon us. Many things will be taking place in just the first few months of school and we want to make sure you are aware of them.

Graduation

- Graduation will be held in May/June of 2018 (exact date –to be determined)
- In order to participate in the ceremony students must complete the following:
 - 220 credits
 - All required courses, which can be found in our Course Guide at www.sanmateohigh.org
 - Adult School: – Some students may need extra credits to reach the credit requirement (220) for graduation while others may have to make up U.S. History 2 or an English class. Enrollment information will be available in the Counseling Department. Adult/Night School starts in early September and finishes prior to Winter Break.
 - If you are concerned about your grades it is important to speak to Ms. Watson (this year’s senior counselor) immediately!

Critical Dates

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| ➤ Senior Night – September 13, 2017 at 6:30 pm, Performing Arts Center |
| ➤ Early Action/Decision Letters of Rec. – Deadline September 15, 2017 |
| ➤ Financial Aid Night – September 26, 2017 at 7:00 pm, Biotech Conference Rm |
| ➤ College Fair – October 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm, Mills High School |
| ➤ Request for Letters of Recommendation – Deadline November 3, 2017 |

San Mateo and Beyond...

Four Year College Entrance Testing - The SAT Tests are offered in October, November and December and the ACT tests are offered in September, October, and December. Every school gives the option of submitting either the SAT or the ACT. Information booklets are available in the Career Center. Registration may be done on-line (www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org) Some schools prefer the ACT rather than the SAT Reasoning Test and some schools additionally require SAT Subject Tests, so be sure to check each school’s requirement.

College Applications - Applications must be completed for both the UC and CSU systems on-line. (Application Workshops will be held in the computer lab in October or November to assist any students with the UC & CSU applications and the UC essay). Mr. Hanson and Ms. Kane will notify students of upcoming dates. Students should also be using Naviance for researching schools for possible private or out of state schools on-line applications. Most schools allow you to apply on-line (and most prefer this method of applying). All schools that accept the common application will be submitted through Naviance. More information will be given on college night.

Reminder: To meet four-year college admissions requirements, all “D” grades in required courses MUST be made up. (*See requirements in Naviance.* <http://connection.naviance.com/smhsca>). Contact your counselor if you have questions.

Letters of Recommendation - Most private schools often ask for letters from teachers and counselors as part of the admissions process. It is important to get early commitments from teachers as there is a limit to the number they will write. If a counselor's letter is required, **appointments** need to be made as soon as possible with the counselor to go over the information in the packet. **The deadline to request a letter is November 3rd**. However, if you are applying **for early action/early decision the deadline to request a letter is September 15th**. (The UC and CSU systems **DO NOT** accept letters). Please review the steps and procedures on requesting a letter of recommendation on Naviance. All students applying to private universities need to meet briefly with Mr. Hanson for the appropriate paperwork.

Community College Applications - In the spring of 2018, an application workshop for College of San Mateo, Skyline and Cañada will take place at San Mateo High School. Students will be notified of dates and location.

College Visits - Many universities come out to our school and present to a group of students. For an up to date schedule, please visit Naviance.

Selective Services

Federal law requires males to **register for the Selective Service** within 30 days of their 18th birthday. You can register automatically when you fill out a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) after October 1, 2017 or pick up an application at any post office or on-line at www.sss.gov.

We look forward to seeing all Seniors and Parents at Senior Night on September 13th at 6:30 pm in the Performing Arts Center!

Sincerely,

The San Mateo High School Counseling Department