

Notes from the Counseling Department

SAN MATEO HIGH SCHOOL

To the Students in the Class of 2017 and Parents:

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 - An important reminder that in order to graduate and take part in the ceremony, a student must have completed the following requirements:

- (1) at least 220 credits
- (2) all required courses (see Naviance for a list of requirements)

We will be presenting information for parents and students on **September 13th at 6PM in the Performing Arts Center**. The presentation will discuss the entire college application process, financial aid and scholarship information, and a time for questions and answers.

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. 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 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. Some 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 the 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 4th**. However, if you are applying for **early action/early decision the deadline to request a letter is September 16th**. (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 2017, an application workshop for College of San Mateo, Skyline and Cañada will take place at San Mateo High School. Student will be notified of date and location.

Adult/Night 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.

College & Career Fair- This event will be taking place on October 17th beginning at 6:30PM at Mills High School.

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

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 January 1, 2017 or pick up an application at any post office or on-line at www.sss.gov.

SEE YOU AT SENIOR & PARENT NIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 13TH, 6 PM – PERFORMING ARTS CENTER!

Sincerely, The San Mateo High School Counseling Department

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