

March 25, 2010

# Hello Class of 2011!!!!

This is probably your last Career Center newsletter for this school year...

## *college bound students:*

- **SAT/ACT:** If there is even the slightest possibility that you might consider attending a 4-year college right after high school, be sure to sign up for the **SAT and/or ACT**. (Also keep in mind that there are some scholarships that require an SAT/ACT score to qualify.) If you haven't already signed up ... **Do it today**.  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- **Sending SAT scores to CSU's:** Here's a money-saving trick for sending SAT scores to CSU's: list CSU Mentor (SAT institution code 3594) as an SAT score recipient & your score will be stored by the central CSU system [for all CSU's to access](#). (Make sure you choose CSU Mentor in Long Beach, and not CSU Long Beach.) This works only for the SAT and only for CSU's. (ACT scores can be shared by CSU's if you send to any single CSU. And as far as I know UC's do not have a system like this for sharing test scores.)
- **What college should I apply to?** Decide what is important to you... location, majors offered, school size, sports, etc. Come up with a couple **schools you like** that you're pretty sure you'd get into, and 1 or 2 schools that are a "reach." Don't eliminate a favorite private school simply because of high tuition. Apply anyway, and see what kind of financial aid they offer. They may offer enough to bring the cost down to where you can afford it.
- **College Fairs!** College Fairs are a great way to find out about many different colleges, and talk to their representatives. There is a large college fair on Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4-8 pm at Folsom High School at 1655 Iron Point Road in Folsom. They have invited students from our district to attend. Also plan to attend our EDUHSD District College Fair in October!
- Here are some of my favorite **college search sites**:  
[www.californiacolleges.edu](http://www.californiacolleges.edu) for all 2 & 4 year public & private colleges in Calif.  
[www.csumentor.com](http://www.csumentor.com) for CSU's  
[www.universityofcalifornia.edu](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu) for UC's  
<http://wue.wiche.edu/> for out-of-state colleges with in-state tuition agreements  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and/or <http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> for

colleges all over the country

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com) to find out about colleges you might never hear of. This site also graphs your SAT/gpa in relation to their student population

[www.collegeweeklive.com](http://www.collegeweeklive.com) has some cool online events. (The UC system held a college fair here last fall ) Workshops on various topics, live chats and more.

- **Visiting colleges:** If you're traveling this summer, **plan a visit to a college** or two. You can usually arrange to attend a campus tour, talk to an admissions representative, tour the dormitories, and/or tour the educational department you're interested in. Check the school's website to see what tours are available. Some require you to sign up in advance, others just post their tour schedule. If a tour you want is full, just call them – many times they'll sign you up anyway.
- **Get a head-start on scholarships:** Think about people you might ask for **letters of recommendation** in the fall. Scholarships usually ask for two or three letters & they sometimes ask that one letter be from a non-faculty member. So think about community members you can ask – people who know you well through work, church, volunteering, and other activities are good possibilities. Also come into the Career Center & check the scholarship binder for this year's Seniors. It will give you a good idea of what will be available next year.
- **College sports:** If you're thinking about playing college sports, talk to your **coach** about it & make an appointment to see your **counselor** before the end of your Junior year – it's important to make sure you know the details so you don't close any doors. Don't forget to send your **SAT/ACT scores** to NCAA, as well as the colleges you are applying to. The NCAA institution code is 9999. Also set up a profile with the **NCAA**: [www.eligibilitycenter.org](http://www.eligibilitycenter.org). We have an **awesome book** in the Career Center that explains the sports recruiting & scholarship process in detail. If you're thinking about college sports, **you'll definitely want to read it!!** Just ask and we'll loan it to you.

## **all students:**

- **Use Bridges:** Bridges is a tool to help you decide on a career path to pursue. There is information about thousands of jobs, and surveys for you to find out more about yourself. Visit [www.bridges.com](http://www.bridges.com). The site ID is **1027093** and the password is **cougar**.
- **Work on your resume:** If you haven't already, start putting together a resume. You'll need it next year if you plan to apply for scholarships, jobs, internships, and other opportunities. List any activities, honors, leadership experience, community service & work experience you can think of. A resume is

what you use to **communicate your qualifications** to another person & you will continue to revise your resume throughout your adult life.

- **Volunteer.** It's true that volunteer experience on your resume helps you get scholarships for college & community college. But better yet, you get real-life experience. You can **gain experience** doing some pretty cool things that you're really not qualified to do – then when you're done, you're probably qualified, and you have experience on top of it! Volunteering can help you make personal connections that sometimes lead to a paying job. Volunteer – it's worth it!
- **Summer programs:** Check out **summer educational opportunities**. Most of these have a cost involved, but it can be a very worthwhile experience, and many of the programs offer scholarships to qualified students. These programs can help you figure out what direction you want to head after graduation. I have a bunch of them listed on my wiki: <http://mrsbastian.pbwiki.com/>
- **Talk to people.** Talk to people who have jobs you might be interested in. **Ask** them what they like & dislike. **Ask** them about how they decided to go into the military, or how they decided which college to attend. **Ask** them how they paid the bills while they were following their dreams. **Ask** them what they'd do differently if they could do it over. **Make connections** with people who can help you, and use their experience to help you decide what you want for yourself.

Finish your Junior year strong, and please come see me if you have any questions.

*Mary Bastian*

Career Guidance Specialist

10:30 am-4:00pm

El Dorado High School

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