

## DVHS COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER (CCC) NEWS

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### **COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER INFORMATION**

#### **April College & Career Center Hours\*** **April 14-30 (Closed due to STAR testing)**

*\*During the months of April/May, the College & Career Center will be closed various time periods due to STAR and AP testing. See School loop for most updated information.*

*Remember to use the website [www.COIN3.com](http://www.COIN3.com) to start your college and career search, investigate a major or complete some self-assessments. Site ID is LCA16847; login is dvhs. Access to the COIN Career Library is funded by your DVHS Academic Boosters.*

### **COLLEGE/MILITARY VISITS/CAREER CENTER INFORMATION**

**April 19 – UCLA @ lunch (12:30 p.m.) in the Library**

***COLLEGE SEARCH!!!! It is never too early to start the exploration process...***

***In addition to [www.coin3.com](http://www.coin3.com), check out these websites for Online College Exploration. Read student blogs, take a virtual tour, read campus comparisons. Attend "out of area college" receptions hosted in Bay Area at local hotels, attend local college fairs (next one is May 8 at St. Mary's College in Moraga – details in this newsletter)***

- Collage Portraits – <http://www.collegeportraits.org/> (for college campus comparison)
- College Navigator – <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> (US Dept of Education)
- YOUiversityTV – <http://www.youiversitytv.com/youlife/index.home.php> (video tours of colleges)
- Colleges that Change Lives – [www.ctcl.org](http://www.ctcl.org) (40 Nationwide small Liberal Arts colleges)
- National Survey of Engagement - [http://nsse.iub.edu/html/students\\_parents.cfm](http://nsse.iub.edu/html/students_parents.cfm) (college campus (student, parent, institutional survey results)
- The Choice Blog - <http://thechoice.blogs.nytimes.com/> (New York Times Education blog)
- Unigo - [www.Unigo.com](http://www.Unigo.com) (college search info and webinars about admissions, financial aid, etc)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The counselors are in the process of meeting with every 9, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade student individually to discuss their 2010-11 academic schedule and their 4-year plan. This is a great opportunity to ask about planning for college and career options.

## **COLLEGE ADMISSIONS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES (not at DVHS)**

*See school website/school loop for most up-to-date information*

**East Bay College Fair!** Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:30 pm at Saint Mary's College in Moraga. Over 160 representatives from nationwide and local colleges and universities, the military and local technical and career schools will be present. Admissions and Financial Aid information will be readily available and it's a great time to ask a few questions about curriculum or campus life at schools you might consider attending. Plan to carpool with your friends and be sure to come early enough to get a parking spot – this event is very popular! Visit: [www.stmarys-ca.edu/admissions-and-aid/undergraduate-admissions/ebcc.html](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/admissions-and-aid/undergraduate-admissions/ebcc.html) for more information and a list of the schools attending. Download an informative guidebook at this website, too. Register and receive a barcode to use at many booths to get on their contact lists for future communications.

## **COLLEGE APPLICATION INFORMATION:**

### **SENIORS:**

- Keep up your grades! Maintain your focus! No senioritis!
- **Be sure to check e-mails from colleges.** Some colleges have asked students to sign up for portals on their websites, so be sure to check them as well. Colleges are expecting students to stay on top of deadlines.
- **Attend “Admitted Student” events at colleges where you have been offered admission.** This is a great place to get your questions answered, meet other potential students and get a “feel” for a campus. It will feel much different to visit a campus to where you have been admitted, than when you were in application mode.
- **CSU students:** Be sure to sign up for English (EPT) or Math (ELM) placement tests as required by the CSU where you plan to enroll. Some students may be exempt due to SAT test scores, or Early Assessment Program scores (associated with the STAR test taken as juniors). Be sure you check the acceptance letter you receive from your intended CSU. You must either be exempt, or complete the required tests as part of your admissions criteria and failure to do so could affect your admission status. EPT/ELM tests may be taken at any CSU campus. For more information go to: <http://www.ets.org/>. See your CSU acceptance letter to learn if you are exempt from either or both of these assessments. **Many CSU's require students to take any required ELM or EPT tests by May 1, so sign up today, if necessary!**
- **UC students:** UC will administer the Analytical Writing Placement Examination on Saturday, May 8, at various testing centers (details on UCOP website listed below) for students who have been admitted to the university but have not met the Entry Level Writing Requirement by April 1. Students are not required to take the exam if they have a record on file with the university indicating acceptable scores on one of the following: SAT Reasoning Test, ACT combined English/Writing exam, Advanced Placement exam in English Language or Literature, or International Baccalaureate Higher Level or Standard Level exam in English. Students also are exempt from the AWPE exam if they have successfully completed a transferable college-level English composition course. Comprehensive information about the Entry Level Writing Requirement and AWPE is available at <http://www.ucop.edu/elwr>/<http://www.ucop.edu/elwr/>

- **ALL SENIORS: May 1 is the date by which you need to accept or decline offers of admission to (most) 4-year colleges.** BE SURE YOU MEET THIS DEADLINE and submit your “Statement of Intent to register (SIR)” on time. There are no “grace periods” and if you don’t respond by May 1, you will most likely lose your acceptance. Also, many colleges use wait lists and unclaimed admissions will be offered to students on those lists after May 1. On the flip side, if you have been accepted to a college and know that you don’t plan to attend, an early decline will open up a space for another interested student.
- **WAITLISTS:** If you have chosen to remain on one or more college waitlist, BE SURE YOU still accept an offer of admission at a campus where you have been admitted, to ensure you have a spot for fall 2010. Remember that wait listed students are not usually notified until after May 1 of any potential admissions offers. Also, remember that the % of students who are offered admission from a wait list is generally pretty low, so make sure you “cover your bases” and ensure you have a college to attend in fall. (See each college’s website for specific campus admission statistics). Consider starting at a community college and transferring!
- **Are you thinking about applying to DVC or Las Positas Community College** to work on your general education requirements in order to transfer to a 4-year college? Or, are you not sure of your intentions and want to have a **back-up plan** in case you were not accepted at your first choice 4-year campus and might consider the transfer route? Or are you looking for immediate job training and prefer to earn an associate degree or a technical certificate? Submit an application to DVC or Las Positas today and take the required assessment tests to prepare yourself for options. Go to [www.dvc.edu](http://www.dvc.edu) or <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/> for application information. See below for DVC assessment information.
- **DVC Assessment Testing** – DVHS Computer lab on April 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. (while 9-11<sup>th</sup> are taking STAR testing). These tests allow DVC counselors to place you in the correct courses and must **be taken prior to registering for classes**. Sign up in Counseling to ensure a space. Then, check out the practice tests at <http://www.dvc.edu/org/departments/assessment-center/> see the menu on the left, and read what the tests will contain so you’ll be at your best! Sample questions are at the bottom of each page. Bring your DVC student ID number and your DVHS student ID to the day of the test.
- **Las Positas College (LPC) Assessment Testing** – LPC requires students to take assessment tests at their campus. Once a student applies to LPC, he/she will receive a letter from LPC regarding how and when to register for the (required) assessment tests.

### **Some thoughts on.....Deciding which admission offer to accept!**

How do you decide which college to say yes to? With so many students submitting 10-plus college applications, this pleasant quandary is a real dilemma. Students who have received multiple offers from colleges now find the shoe is on the other foot. Accepted students may be heavily recruited by colleges and are receiving telephone calls, numerous e-mails, small gifts, enticing merit-based scholarships and admission to prestigious honors programs. Admissions offices are trying to increase their yield (the number of students who accept their offer of admission) and solidify their numbers for next year’s freshman class.

So how do you choose when more than one school wants you?

Jeff Brenzel, Yale’s dean of admissions, posted his thoughts: “For the past year, you have likely focused heavily on where to apply, and then how to win the hearts of admissions officers. Oddly, this effort may have left you surprisingly unprepared for a task that is just as challenging, but far more important: deciding where to go now that you (undoubtedly) have choices.”

- He goes on to share his advice:
  - 1. Don't dwell on the rejections.
  - 2. Wipe out all assumptions. "Throw away the U.S. News & World Report. Stop obsessing over selectivity or prestige."
  - 3. Don't be blinded by what you thought you knew and what you thought was your first choice.
  - 4. Visit or revisit as many of the colleges as possible. "When you walk onto campus, try to avoid finding reasons not to like a place – things that turn you off. Instead, try the much more useful exercise of trying to picture yourself there as a student, thriving and enjoying both the educational opportunities and the campus scene."
  - 5. Ask your parents for their opinions, and ask them to be specific. "You may need to call a physician to revive them if you follow this piece of advice," he quips. "Most parents will be quite surprised if a son or daughter approaches them directly, asks them to provide a detailed rundown of exactly what they think and why, then listens to them carefully."

Here's another thing you can try when comparing colleges: Rank each college's characteristics side by side with a 1-5 scale.

- 1. Location: urban, suburban, or rural, distance from home.
- 2. Size: number of students, class sizes.
- 3. Student body: diversity (internationally, racially, economically, geographically; in-state/out-of-state students).
- 4. Academics: majors, special programs.
- 5. Extracurricular activities: clubs, intramurals, new opportunities.
- 6. Facilities: Are they updated? (labs, dorms, dining hall, fitness centers)
- 7. Talk to current students – ask them what they like and don't like about their school

(excerpt from an article by Lee Bierer, columnist and college counselor in Charlotteville, NC. 4-13-10)

**Don't make a snap decision. You have until May 1<sup>st</sup>—but remember to respond!!**

### **JUNIORS:**

- Be sure to sign up for college entrance tests. Most (4 year) college bound juniors will take one of these tests (SAT or ACT) during spring of junior year, and if necessary retake it in fall of senior year. Remember that most colleges require test scores from either the ACT or SAT test, plus the UC's and some private schools also require SAT Subject test scores as criteria for admission. (Verify application requirements on each college's website). Go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to sign up for an SAT test and/or SAT Subject tests; [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to sign up for an ACT test (with writing). In addition, both of these websites have a ton of other great information related to the college search and application process, so check them out today!
- **Now is the time to start researching college and other post high school options.** A great place to start is [www.COIN3.com](http://www.COIN3.com). There you can take assessments, learn about different careers and majors and search for college or trade school options. User id is: LCA16847 and log-in is: dvhs. Be realistic in your considerations. Look at school websites and college guidebooks for admissions profiles – plan to apply to schools that would be a "good fit" for you academically, socially, and logistically. Look both in state and of state, public and private. You might qualify for scholarships to bring the costs down!! Consider "WUE" (Western Undergraduate Exchange) out-of-state schools. Go to <http://wue.wiche.edu/> to see a list of out

of state schools that offer reduced out of state tuition and potential scholarships to California residents.

- **Think about touring campuses over summer break or on school holidays.** It is best to see a campus while students are there, but sometimes that is not feasible, and a summer visit can provide great information. Be sure to check campus websites for tour information. Tours and admissions overview sessions can be invaluable; but so can a casual walk around a campus. *Can you picture yourself living and working there for 4 (+) years?*
- **Prepare for finals. Continue to do your BEST!**

## SOPHOMORES

- If you are taking AP or honors classes, and doing well in it, consider taking a related SAT Subject test while the material is fresh in your mind. See [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for registration and test information. NOTE: While the UC's will not require SAT Subject tests as a *requirement for admission* for class of 2012 (and beyond), many private schools will continue to require/recommend them. See specific college websites to view their application requirements.
- **Prepare for finals. Continue to do your BEST!**

## TESTING INFORMATION

**AP testing** will be held May 3rd -13<sup>th</sup> at DVHS for pre-registered students. Testing locations will be posted at the Career Center and in AP classrooms. Many colleges will offer college credit for certain AP test scores, and some also offer weighted credit in a student's GPA for grades of C or better. The number of weighted credits awarded in an application GPA is determined by each college—so check websites.

**JUNIORS:** The last two dates to take the **SAT Reasoning or SAT Subject Tests** this school year are May 1st and June 5th. Students should register at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Our closest SAT testing location is California High School.

The final date to take the **ACT** test this school year will be June 12<sup>th</sup>. Students should register at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). We recommend that all students take the optional "writing" portion as the UC's require it, and it cannot be taken alone. Our closest ACT testing location is College Park High School in Pleasant Hill.

Remember that most schools will consider the highest scores earned on each test, so many students opt to take tests more than once (with some form of preparation in between). The UC's will use the highest scores from a single sitting (Math, English, Writing on the same day) and CSU's will use the highest section score (ie. Math + English) from the same or different test dates, when calculating eligibility indexes.

**SOPHOMORES:** Kaplan Test Prep and Academic Boosters have partnered to offer a combination ACT/SAT practice test to give students a chance to learn the nuances of both tests. A portion of the test will be in the SAT format and the other will be in the ACT format. Learn the differences and see which test might be a better fit for your testing strength. **This combo test will be offered on Saturday, April 24 at DVHS from 8-11 a.m. and a follow up session to discuss test results will be April 29, from 7-8 p.m.** Cost is \$30 and will include a follow up session. Pick up a registration

flyer in Counseling or download it from school loop. Make checks payable to DVHS Academic Boosters and place in envelope in counseling.

Below is an “**Overview of College Application tests**”. Stop by the Career Center for more detailed information and/or access their websites directly for updated information on test dates and locations.

- **PSAT** – Preliminary SAT – designed for Juniors – can qualify for National Merit Scholarship competition (sophomores may take it for practice but cannot qualify for NMSQT). This test is offered at DVHS once a year, in October.
- **SAT** – College entrance test – pre-registration required. [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). Many colleges require a student to take either an SAT or an ACT as part of the college admissions process. Most schools will use the highest scores in evaluating applications. Offered 7 times per year.
- **ACT** – College entrance test – pre-registration required [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Offered 6 times per year. Be sure to take the “optional” writing section (required by UC’s and many privates/out of state schools). Colleges accept scores from either the SAT or ACT.
- **SAT Subject Tests** – offered in 20 subject areas and students can choose which to take depending upon their academic strengths and specific college entrance requirements. Some colleges do not require them; others require one or more. If you choose to take Math (opt for Math Level 2). Colleges will use your highest test score and tests may be repeated. Each test is one hour long. Up to 3 subject tests can be taken on a particular testing date, however students cannot take them on the same day as an SAT Reasoning test. See [www.collegeboard](http://www.collegeboard) for details and to register. Think about taking in May or June (when finishing coursework).
- **AP Tests** – The AP tests are not used as college admissions criteria, they are considered by colleges for curriculum placement and MAY earn students college credit for certain scores. Each college evaluates AP coursework and test scores differently; ask for criteria while taking a campus tour or check out a college’s website. Taking AP classes shows colleges you are willing to challenge yourself, but successful completion is a must.
- **EAP** – Juniors only. Used by the CSU’s for English and Math placement. There are 3 components to this assessment which are associated with the STAR (CST-California State Testing). The essay component was administered to juniors on March 24 and the Math/English components will be administered as part of STAR testing in April.

### **DVC AND LPC --- CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

Are you interested in focusing on your career IMMEDIATELY--- without going through all those “general education” requirements? Explore the over 50 certificate and degree programs available at ,Diablo Valley College or Los Positas College! Stop by the Career Center to pick up DVC’s new Career/Tech Program guide, offering insight into their excellent career-specific courses. This educational route takes you directly to the job that you want to do.

Potential career opportunities include Chef/Sous-Chef, Dental Hygienist, Preschool Teacher, Detective, Architectural Drafter, Athletic Trainer, Floriculturalist, Medical Electronics Technician, Recording Engineer... and more!

### **SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

**Scholarships!** Scholarships are available from many sources such as private companies,

educational foundations, colleges, and community groups. As we receive announcements, **we post them on school loop and on the website**, but there are MANY MORE available than we post. Be creative in your search and watch for important deadlines!!!

### **SUMMER COURSEWORK & EXPLORATION**

*Colleges want to see students make good use of their summer breaks. Learn something new! Travel! Volunteer! Work! Look for summer opportunities posted on the school website, or stop by the Career Center to peruse a binder full of interesting options. Many colleges offer pre-collegiate programs for high school students! Check specific college websites for options!*

**Special Note: SUMMER COURSEWORK AT DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE**---All students will need to pick up a special admission form in the high school counseling office/College and Career Center and have it signed by the principal. (This allows for concurrent enrollment at no cost to the student.) The parent and student both need to sign the form. Students must also complete the DVC application for summer 2010 online at [www.dvc.edu](http://www.dvc.edu). In addition, any student intending to take a course for "advancement" (i.e. Algebra 2 with intention to take PreCalculus/Trigonometry in fall 2010), must also complete an Advancement request form available in Counseling and be available to take an "assessment for advancement test" on July 30 at DVHS. See your counselor for more details.

After completing above, students who will be **11th and 12th graders** in the fall of 2010 must register in person at DVC on June 1st. Students who will be **9th and 10th graders** in the fall of 2010 must obtain the permission of the instructor on the first day of class in order to enroll. The DVC summer session will be June 14- July 22.

UC Berkeley offers coursework options for high school students at \$320 per unit (plus a \$385 registration fee). Up to 6 units may be earned. Take courses with UCB students; receive college credit on a UC Berkeley transcript. Check out <http://summer.berkeley.edu/precollegiate>.

Other colleges also offer summer coursework. Check specific websites for information and to register. Some colleges offer residential programs where students can get a sense of college life!

**WORK:** If you plan to work this summer, be sure to stop by Counseling and pick up a green WORK PERMIT form. This form must be completed by you, your parents and your employer before a work permit can be processed by DVHS. All employed students (under age 18) NEED to have a work permit on file!! See the job board in the Career Center for more work opportunities. Check out local city (San Ramon, Dublin, Danville, etc.) websites for lifeguarding and day camp positions.

**VOLUNTEER:** Check out our postings on school loop or the website. Volunteer to work in a summer camp or at a Senior Center! In addition, some good websites to check out include: [www.helpnow.org](http://www.helpnow.org) (Volunteer Center of the East Bay) and City Lights Volunteers/City of San Ramon (<http://www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/Parks/volunteer/default.htm>).

**Be sure to keep a record:** Colleges want students to make the most out of their summer vacations. Traveling, working, volunteering, taking a class are all great ways to spend your time and expand your horizons. Explore your passions!! Learn something new!! Keep a record of what you do each summer during high school; when you begin to complete college (and future job) applications, you will be glad you did! Note: who you worked for/volunteered on behalf of, how many hours, what you accomplished and what you learned...how it shaped future choices you made. Did you discover a passion? Master a new skill? Teach something new to someone?

**SENIORS:** *If you are done with any of your college materials (brochures, guidebooks,*

***catalogs, test prep books, etc.), please consider donating them to the Career Center.  
Drop them off anytime! Thank you!! 😊***