

DVHS COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER (CCC) NEWS

15th edition --- May 27, 2010

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COLLEGE & CAREER CENTER INFORMATION

May & June College & Career Center Hours **9-4:30 p.m., M-Th; Closed Friday**

Remember to use the website 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.

Parents: Looking for a book to help you understand the current college admissions process? Check out a sample chapter of "Admissions Matters: What Students and Parents Need to Know About Getting into College", 2nd edition. Go to: www.admissionsmatters.com (I read the first edition, and found it to be very informative).

COLLEGE/MILITARY VISITS/CAREER CENTER INFORMATION

Tues, June 1 (*tentative depending on interest-sign up in Counseling*), US Air Force (& ROTC) – 12:30 p.m.

Thurs, June 3, FIDM (Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising), 12:30 p.m.

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

Stop by the College and Career Center and pick up a (Blue) sheet containing a collection of valuable college & career search websites. Begin your research over the summer!

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES (not at DVHS)

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

Aug 1 (Santa Clara) OR Aug 2 (San Rafael) – "Colleges That Change Lives" College Fair Mark your calendars for this unique event highlighting some small liberal arts colleges throughout the U.S. with a common goal. "Changing Lives. One Student at a Time". Some of the colleges include: Agnes Scott College, The Evergreen State College, St. John's College, MD, Reed College, and more. Go to www.ctcl.org for more information.

SUMMER 2010: Be sure to check out college campuses while you are out of town, just to get a sense of location, "gut feel", etc. Though there will be fewer students on campus than during the school year, most likely there will be some on campus taking summer classes. Some college campuses offer summer tours and information sessions, so check their websites before you leave town!

Pick up a flyer in the College and Career Center with suggested questions to ask during a college visit. Take notes after the visit to help you remember what you liked and disliked about a college.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS UPDATES

- **UC's** – UC college applications were up for fall 2010, and due to the CA budget situation, new admissions procedures will be utilized to manage enrollment. Several UC's implemented wait lists, but only two UC's admitted students from their wait lists: UC Davis admitted 525 students from its wait list, and UC Santa Barbara was able to offer admission to everyone on its waiting list (actual number not available). UCLA and UC Merced did not utilize wait lists, and all other UC's met their enrollment targets without admitting from their wait lists. Actual numbers will be available over the summer; check <http://statfinder.ucop.edu/> for further information when posted.
- **DVHS Seniors** - Stop by Counseling to view the map indicating where our seniors will be next fall. We will be communicating college admission statistics for our seniors, when the information is tallied. Seniors were asked to self report where they plan to be in fall via a senior survey. DVHS students had a 36% admit rate to UCSD, a 23.5% admit rate to UCLA, and a 46.2% admit rate to UC Davis. More information to follow as it becomes available.
- **Private Universities:** Many private universities saw an increase in applications and had their admission rates decline. Last report for Stanford was a 7.9% admission rate, Harvard-6.9%, U Penn-14.2%, Pomona College – 14.5%, U of Chicago – 18.4%. Statistics may change day to day due to a flux in wait list positions. In fall 2010, we will have a better sense of admission rates, but keep in mind, individual students are applying to more college sites than before, so application numbers over all have increased and thereby admit rates will decrease.
- **Selective Private Colleges:** I recently attended a college information session with representatives from Cornell, Columbia, Rice U, Brown and University of Chicago. All 5 college reps. said they seek to admit a diverse student body, who truly desire to be educated at their respective institutions. The overlying message was to *do your homework and know what program(s) you are interested in at a particular selective university, and apply for admission with that in mind. Express interest in a campus by signing up on their website and requesting information.* Visit the campus if you can, and/or attend local regional presentations when available. Talking to the college reps is an excellent way for you to determine if you are a *good fit* for their university and if they offer the type of education you are seeking. While this is true for all colleges, remember that the private school regional reps (in most cases) read applications from their student areas and thereby participate in the admissions decision. All 5 of these campuses seek to meet 100% of demonstrated financial need and admit their applicants "need blind" (with no consideration of ability to pay). They seek to build a diverse, highly academic, incoming freshman class annually, so priorities change based on the applicant pool. Be yourself, and take time on your applications to be sure they highlight your accomplishments and what you can bring to the university community!
- **California Students are applying out of state in greater numbers** due to our budget situation and reduction in enrollment caps. Out of state colleges are welcoming CA student with increased financial aid and scholarship opportunities. An organization called the Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE- <http://wue.wiche.edu/>) offers many CA students a discounted out of state tuition amount based on varying criteria. See the website for more information.

COLLEGE APPLICATION INFORMATION

SENIORS: You have been (conditionally*) admitted and indicated your interest to enroll in a particular college....now what????

- **Keep up your grades! Maintain your focus!** No senioritis! Colleges expect you to maintain the GPA you applied with – NO D's or F's in your senior year*! If you do receive a D or an F as a final grade, you need to contact the college immediately as your conditional acceptance

could be in jeopardy. Your acceptance letter should provide the contact information you will need.

- **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.
- **Remember to request a final transcript be sent to the college you will attend in fall.** This is part of your “senior check out procedure. Many colleges require that a final transcript be received by July 15, **and failure to do so may jeopardize your admission to that college. Check your admission letter for specific college document deadlines.**
- **Some colleges require students to attend an orientation on their campus.** Be sure you have signed up! In some cases, earlier orientation may mean an earlier class registration date. Be proactive and check this out for your campus!
- **Community College students:** If you are attending a CA community college in the fall, make sure you are aware of their class registration procedures. Many community colleges (including DVC and Las Positas) have been accepting fall 2010 student class registrations for several days. Don't wait---classes can fill up quickly!!
- **WAIT LISTS:** If you have chosen to remain on one or more college wait list, **BE SURE YOU** follow the procedures outlined by the college. If you have sent your “SIR-Statement of Intent to Register” to another college, be sure to follow their enrollment/orientation process even though you may be on a wait list somewhere else. You don't want to miss out on orientation, housing or class registration!!
- **Prepare for finals!** Continue to your best! Enjoy your last few weeks of high school!!

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!! ☺

JUNIORS:

- If you intended to take the college entrance tests in the spring (ACT or SAT or SAT Subject tests) but forgot to register, consider ‘standing by’. The last spring SAT or Subject tests will be offered on June 5 and the last ACT test will be June 12. See the individual testing website for information on the stand by process, testing locations and the cost of the test, Stop by the College Career Center to pick up a standby registration packet.
 - **ACT:** www.actstudent.org (nearest testing location is Berkeley or Hayward--see website for specifics) Cost: \$41 + \$47 late fee = \$88.
 - **SAT/Subject Tests:** www.collegeboard.com. (nearest testing site is California High School--see website for specifics) Cost: \$45 + \$38 late fee= \$83 for SAT; (\$20 + \$38 late fee) + \$9 per subject test for up to 3 subject tests.
- There will be more test dates in the fall, and as seniors you may also take any of these tests to meet fall 2010 college application requirements. See individual college websites for testing requirements and deadlines for testing completion.
- **Now is the time to start researching college and other post high school options.** A great place to start is 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 out 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?*
- **Start brainstorming topics for college application essays!** Stop by the Career Center to pick up a tip sheet from the UC's. Search private school websites to learn what you can about their application essay topics.
- **The Common Application will be on line beginning July 1.** If a college where you plan to apply requests you to use the Common Application (<https://www.commonapp.org>), you can begin the application as early as July 1. Many colleges will request supplements (additional essays, recommendation letters, etc) so be sure you verify the application criteria for each college. Plan to attend the fall workshops re: college applications presented by DVHS counselors.
- **Prepare for finals. Continue to do your BEST!**
- **Make summer plans. Volunteer, work, take a class, learn something new! Have fun!!**

SOPHOMORES/FRESHMEN

- Think about beginning to prepare for the PSAT test that will be offered at DVHS in October. Stop by the Career Center and pick up a PSAT guide from this year to help you prepare. Look at the College Board website for preparation information (www.collegeboard.com). Consider taking a prep course over the summer to get you ready for the PSAT and the SAT's. Also, Academic Boosters will be offering an "Introduction to College Entrance Tests" class in the fall to help you prepare. (Sophomores *can* take the PSAT for practice, but cannot qualify for the National Merit Scholarship competition).
- **Prepare for finals. Continue to do your BEST!**
- **Make summer plans. Volunteer, work, take a class, learn something new! Have fun!!**
- If you travel over the summer, consider **visiting college campuses** along your way. Start to narrow down what you want in a college experience. Stop by the College and Career Center to pick up some information to help you know what to ask a tour guide, or to help you formulate your priorities in your college search.

TESTING INFORMATION

- College Admissions Testing:
 - **PSAT** – for Juniors (or sophomores for practice). Will be offered at DVHS on Oct. 16. Registration will be via the DVHS web store in mid-Sept.
 - **SAT/SAT Subject Tests** – see www.collegeboard.com for fall 2010 schedule and registration information.
 - **ACT** – see www.actstudent.org for fall 2010 schedule and registration information.

DVC AND LPC --- Community College Information

If you have already applied for admission to DVC and/or Las Positas, NOW is the time to be registering for your fall 2010 classes!! You should have received your enrollment information with your college acceptance letter and will need your college student ID# in order to enroll.

DO THIS TODAY as classes are beginning to fill up! See each campus' website for specific enrollment information! DVC: www.dvc.edu; Las Positas: <http://www.laspositascollege.edu/>

Be sure to get information regarding CSU and UC transferable courses (IGETC) if you plan to transfer to a 4-year college (i.e. CSU, UC, etc.) to complete a 4-year degree (Bachelor's).

SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL AID 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!!!

Financial Aid – Learn what options you might have to save for college and to explore alternative funding options. Stop by the Career Center to pick up a “Fund Your Education” publication.

SUMMER COURSEWORK, VOLUNTEERING & 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!

Many colleges also offer summer coursework options to high school students. Check specific websites for information and to register. Some colleges offer residential programs where students can get a sense of college life and attend classes with college students!

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?*

Make Summer Count: Summer offers a great opportunity for students to make their mark! Find a part-time job (remember to get a work permit from Counseling) or volunteer activity that sounds interesting and you'll build your skills and resume while having fun!!

Monument Crisis Center: www.monumentcrisiscenter.org/volunteer.html

Oakland Zoo: www.oaklandzoo.org/support-the-zoo/teen-volunteer-opportunities

Tri-Valley Animal Rescue: www.tvar.org

East Bay Volunteer Center: www.helpnow.org

City of San Ramon-City Lights Volunteers: <http://www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/Parks/volunteer/>