

Northgate High School College & Career Center

The MDUSD Career Centers were created in the 1970's, staffed by parent volunteers who compiled libraries of career and college information, and prepared these materials for students to check-out. By the early 1980's, the centers were operating throughout the school day, run by paraprofessionals who administered interest inventories, and brought groups of students into the Centers to explore careers. The loss of Guidance Counselors in the early 1990's transformed the Career Centers into campus headquarters for college guidance, too.

The Northgate High School College & Career Center strives to provide professional guidance for individual students as well as groups of students. Juniors and Seniors with similar needs or interests are invited to attend workshops and presentations scheduled during Homeroom on Tuesdays, and Study Sessions on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. These events, and visits by college representatives, scheduled primarily during the fall, are advertised in the Daily Bulletin and Junior-Senior Bulletin. Passes to events are easily obtained, but require teacher permission. Individual appointments are scheduled after school, at lunch on Friday, or during a student's free or TA period.

Employers are reporting that the math and communication skills required of high school graduates immediately entering the job market are the same skill levels needed by students enrolling in college. With close to 98% of Northgate graduates heading to two- or four-year colleges, the focus of the College & Career Center is on encouraging students to acquire the skills necessary to succeed at either an academic institution or a job training program. Some apprenticeship programs require mastery of intermediate algebra, and utilize community college classrooms and facilities. The line between college and vocational school is no longer clear-cut. ROP and Tech-prep programs allow a student to sample an area of employment in high school, complete an associate's degree or certificate of mastery at a community college or specialized school, and transfer to a bachelor's degree program that will prepare the individual for a management or professional position in that field. At Northgate, Learning Pathways have also been formalized to encourage students to explore how academic strengths and interests can lead to meaningful careers and/or satisfying avocations.

Click-on "Resources" to find out more about the print, internet, and human resources available to all students through the Northgate College & Career Center.