

COLLEGE AND CAREER CENTER RESOURCES

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The *College & Career Center* is open M-F from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment. The following resources are available to help students identify post-high school options and opportunities:

- a. **Career, college and major exploration software** is available to all Northgate students who took the PSAT this past fall. See the PSAT Score Report for instructions for accessing **My Road** on-line. Other web sites offering free college searches: the College Board, ACT, Peterson's and Princeton Review web sites, www.CollegeView.com and www.xap.com.
- b. **GetInsights** (www.getinsights.com) offers a short, student-friendly personality profile. Click on the blue button (getInsights), click *Take Your Profile Now*, enter name, e-mail address, etc., then select NHS and enter the NHS coupon code **#4396F4**. GetInsights is available to all MUDSD high school students. Students at other schools, or enrolled in other East Bay high school districts, should use their own high school's coupon code.
- c. **College Directories**, ranging from the comprehensive but dry and statistical (*Barron's* and *Peterson's*) to the anecdotal (*Insider's Guide*). Don't take the editorial comments in guides written from the student's point of view too seriously. Read them to get a feel for the personality of a college too far away to visit, no more. The **College Board Handbook** and **Fiske's** guides are among the most objective of the narrative guides that are available.
- d. **Specialized Directories**, including top colleges for science, performing arts, for students with learning differences, two-year colleges, women's colleges, competitive colleges, public ivies, honors programs, etc.
The College Board Book of Majors is a directory of college majors and special programs (such as co-operative education, study abroad, etc.)
Fredrick E. Rugg's **Rugg's Recommendations On The Colleges** is a book of lists of majors and the colleges that offer them.
- e. **Ratings of Programs of Study**. The *College & Career Center* library has a couple of publications that rate majors at different colleges. This is a good place to start if a student is sure about his or her college major, and wants to identify colleges with well-regarded programs. Trade and professional organizations can also help identify accredited and/or recommended programs of study. Consult the *National Trade and Professional Association Directory*, available at public libraries, for contact information.

f. **College Catalogs** are a source of detailed information about each college's graduation requirements and programs of study, including course descriptions, and academic policies. This is where one finds out what a college's math or foreign language requirement is, for example, or whether the architecture major has an engineering or aesthetic orientation. Colleges are going "green" so access college catalogs on-line at college web sites, look under "academic" information, or "publications."

g. **Miscellaneous** college materials, such as "viewbooks," provide you with a "feel" for a college, and often contain valuable information, such as an admissions' **profile** (statistics about the most recently admitted class). Check college stats on line at www.collegestats.org

h. **Applications** can tell you a lot about a college, and what it values in applicants. We receive very few paper applications from all of the colleges. To get the latest application and admission information, go online to a specific college. An increasing number of schools are using the Common Application. This is a simple way to apply to more than one school. Go to www.commonapp.org.

i. **Financial Aid and Scholarship** information and applications largely on the internet (start at www.finaid.org for links to financial aid applications, aid estimators, and scholarship data bases).

A **Scholarship List** that includes local scholarship opportunities is compiled, updated and available in the College/Career Center. Check online at www.FastWeb.com for available scholarships. Go to individual college web sites for their list of grants and scholarship opportunities.

j. **Linda Clark** is a certificated school counselor. She is happy to make an appointment with a student during a free or T.A. period and with a student and/or parents before or after school. Or, just drop in and, if she is available, she can answer questions.

Families looking for in-depth career counseling are encouraged to contact the Career Center at John F. Kennedy University in Pleasant Hill (969-3542), or to enroll in DVC's Career 110 - Career and Life Planning class. This course can be completed in four weeks during the summer session. A variety of career and personality assessments are completed during the class, at a very low cost.