

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER

- Review your high school *Student Handbook* and *Program Planning Guide*. Set-up your *Daily Planner*.
- If you need to make up credits or required courses, see your Vice-Principal or Student Services Coordinator immediately.
- Parents are encouraged to attend *Back-To-School Night* to meet your teachers and find out about the expectations in each of your classes.
- Stop by the College & Career Center to see the schedule of college representatives who will be visiting your high school in the fall. It is not too early to begin talking with college and vocational school representatives about your goals.
- Plan for college expenses at www.finaid.org and www.scholarshare.com . Consult your family's tax accountant to learn about education IRA's, tax credits for higher education, pre-paid tuition plans, and 529 plans.

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER

- Sign up to take the **PSAT** (Pre- SAT). Although usually taken by juniors, sophomores may take this test as a practice test on a space available basis. The **PSAT** is given on the third Saturday in October, once a year.
- Sign up to take the **PLAN** (Pre-American College Test). **PLAN** is given to sophomores in October or November at some district high schools. This is a very appropriate test for tenth graders who have not yet completed Geometry. Contact your Career/College Advisor for registration information.
- Meet with college and vocational school representatives and listen to career speakers.

DECEMBER

- Review your **PSAT** and/or **PLAN** results. Go over any questions you answered incorrectly in your test book.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

- Record your semester grades on your four-year academic plan and update your plan. Pay special attention to courses that are required for high school graduation or college admission. File your report card for future reference.
- Apply to UC Berkeley's *Academic Talent Development Program* (ATDP), if desired. Many other summer enrichment programs are available on college campuses. See the *Summer Opportunities Bulletin*, which is published monthly, February through May, and is posted at the Northgate High School Parent Club web site: www.northgatehs-pfc.com. Click on *College & Career Center*.
- Begin the course selection process for next year. Review your goals, check with your teachers about continuing on to more advanced courses, and explore electives that are offered to eleventh graders, including *Regional Occupation Program* classes on campuses throughout the district.
- Visit the College & Career Center to find out about career interest inventories, college and vocational school representative visits, college and university admission requirements, college entrance exams, etc.

MARCH

- Parents are invited to attend *Open House* in the spring. Students and parents will have a chance to see what has been accomplished during the school year. It is also a good time for you to explore elective classes by seeing what students are doing in other areas and asking questions. Art and Performing Arts classes often have special exhibits or performances the evening of Open House.
- The California High School Exit Exam in mathematics and language arts will be administered to all sophomores. You must pass these tests prior to high school graduation.
- Register for the June SAT Subject Tests in Biology, Chemistry or World History if you plan to apply to the University of California, and have strong grades in any of these classes. SAT Subject Tests can also be taken in 11th and 12th grade.
- Attend local youth job fairs if you are seeking summer employment. Check job postings in the Work Experience Education Office, High School Job Board, and/or College & Career Center.

APRIL / MAY

- Third quarter grade reports are issued. Review the courses you selected for next year. Talk with your teachers to determine if you are signed-up for courses in which you will be successful.
- Inquire about summer school. Do you need to make-up credits for graduation, or improve grades for college admission, during the summer? Complete and submit any applications required for summer high school or college sessions.
- Attend the **East Bay College Fair** with your parents. Attend workshops on a variety of college-related topics and ask questions of admissions personnel representing more than 150 two- and four-year colleges.
- Visit community college bookstores or web sites for summer and/or fall class schedules. Obtain *Concurrent Enrollment Forms* from the College & Career Center or your Vice-Principal if you plan to take a community college course in the summer or in the fall. Permission to enroll in a fall class at the community college must be obtained by mid-June.

JUNE

- Record your second semester grades, on your four-year academic plan. File your report card for future reference.
- Report to MDUSD summer school if you have enrolled. To receive credit, you must arrive on time, and miss no more than one day of class per three week term. Three tardies count as one absence.
- Visit colleges and vocational schools. Take a campus tour and attend the information session presented by the Admissions Office, usually scheduled twice a day during the spring, summer and fall.
- Update your activity list and community service resume. Keep a record of hours invested, the names of all volunteer supervisors, coaches, sponsors, and contact information. You may need to verify community service and other activities when you apply to college.
- Set up an e-mail account for college communication only. Avoid “free” services like hotmail, and cute or suggestive e-mail addresses that might make a poor first impression on college admissions personnel.
- Visit www.csumentor.edu and start a high school planner if you have not already done so. The planner will allow you to track your progress towards meeting both University of California and California State University subject requirements. It will also simplify completing your applications for admission during your senior year. Click on the “Plan for College” tab, then on “High School Planner.”

11/08