

Sophomore Midyear Newsletter For sophomores and Parents

It's the first progress report for second semester, so your counselors thought this would be a good opportunity to fill you in on a few important reminders:

Tutoring:

- **Tutoring/Learning Center:** If you have a student who is struggling in math class, we have tutoring available during lunch in the math department. Students can drop in – no appointments are needed. For other academic subjects (English, Science and History) teachers are usually available before or after school and during lunch, or by appointment.
- **Study Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30 in the FUHS library
- **Step Up Tutoring:** Wednesdays from 3:00-4:30 (Snacks Provided) Location: Multigenerational Center (MGC)
2280 Newburg Road, Fortuna, CA 95540 #707-725-2297

4 Year College Bound Students:

If you are planning to apply to a 4 year college during your senior year, here are a few tips and reminders:

Grades for College: 4-year colleges look at GPAs from the sophomore and junior years. This is an important year for students! Keep them up! Also good grades will help students get financial aid- the higher the grades, the more chances for financial aid/scholarships later on during their senior year.

CSU and UC Subject Requirements: A-G

“a” History – 2 years

“b” English – 4 years college prep

“c” Math – 3 years college prep (minimum of Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 – the more math, the better)

“d” Lab Science – 2 years (Biology and Chemistry or Physics – minimum... the more the better)

“e” Language – 2 years (the same language – UC recommends 3 years)

“f” Fine Arts – 1 year

“g” College Prep Electives – 1 year (UC approved electives chosen from any area on approved “a-g” course list)

****tip – be sure to start language no later than your junior year**

- **CSU's require grades of “C” or better in these subjects. They would like to see an overall minimum GPA of 3.0.**
- **UC's expect that students maintain high GPA's and take the most rigorous courses possible including: Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes, with as many UC approved courses as possible.**
- **UCs require the SAT plus writing or ACT plus writing (Students should plan on taking in the spring of junior year). CSU's require SAT or ACT.**

SATs and PSAT:

- The SAT test is a test used by colleges to help determine admission. Next year in October your students will be able to take the PSAT as a junior. The PSAT is a preliminary SAT and will help students get ready for the SAT since it follows the same format. Students who take the PSAT will be familiar with the type of questions asked and how the test is set up.
- The PSAT is also important because students can compete for scholarships providing their scores are high enough. The PSAT will be offered next fall in October. Look for upcoming information on the PSAT next fall. Certain select sophomores already took the test last fall for practice, but next year is the one that counts towards competition for scholarships (The National Merit Scholarship Programs)

****If you are planning to start at a community college first, then you won't need to take any language while in high school. You also won't need to take an SAT or ACT.**

Activities: If you haven't already done so, it's important to participate in school and community activities while in high school. Community service is a graduation requirement (15 hours). In addition, colleges like students who are active. Try to participate as much as your grades will allow, and also try to keep a list of your activities. You'll need this list later on. For those students who have good grades, be sure to check out CSF (California Scholarship Federation – Advisor Mrs. Dixon). If you get accepted it looks really great on your resume because it is an honor society. For scholarship consideration, later on, they are looking for good grades, community/school service and leadership experience. The more the better, so it is best to start now if you haven't yet done so.

Services/Agencies Available on Campus:

- **Talent Search (TRIO):** Agency who provides information/workshops on how to get to college and provides tutoring services. Applications are available in the counseling office.
- **Upward Bound:** Is an agency that works with qualified students to help them get to college. Applications available in the counseling office.

Other Information: It's never too early to start thinking about colleges and scholarships. Here are a few websites you can use to help you start thinking about colleges, financial aid, and scholarships.
www.californiacolleges.edu this site provides college and career information. Offers interest surveys and career assessments.

<https://www.raise.me/join/fortuna-union-high> RaiseMe is an amazing way to get money for college!

www.fastweb.com for scholarship searches

www.finaid.org for scholarship searches and financial aid info

www.collegeboard.org All-purpose college info, college searches, financial aid, etc.

www.calstate.edu/apply California State University admissions website

www.humboldt.edu HSU financial aid website with scholarship search

www.universityofcalifornia.edu UC admissions website

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