

# SOPHOMORE

## Counseling Calendar



### SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

- ❑ Meet with your counselor to ensure that your course schedule is challenging enough to prepare you for college. Take Honors and AP classes if you feel you're ready for the challenge.
- ❑ Take the PSAT/NMSQT® or PSAT™ 10. It provides valuable feedback on your college readiness and a free, personalized plan to help you start getting ready for the SAT and for college.
- ❑ Are you interested in going into the military? Take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery). Your scores will determine how qualified you are for certain military occupational specialties and Enlistment Bonuses. A high score will improve your chances of getting the specialty/job and signing bonus you want. You can also take this assessment to help identify careers you may be interested in. Sign up for the ASVAB through the College and Career Center.
- ❑ Use your California Colleges account to research college, career, & financial aid information. Counselors will be in your classrooms to present more information about California Colleges.
- ❑ Participate in school activities, join clubs and volunteer. . Extracurricular activities can help you develop time management skills and enrich your high school experience. Use your California Colleges Account to log all your activities and experiences.
- ❑ Talk to your counselor about your plans for life after high school. The more your counselor knows about you, the more he or she can help you along the way.
- ❑ Research scholarship opportunities on the counseling website and through California Colleges. The more research you do now, the easier it will be during senior year. See Mrs. Williams in the College & Career Center for more info.
- ❑ Attend the Fall College Night at Rancho and other college nights at local schools.
- ❑ Keep working hard and earning good grades. You will have far more options if you start planning now for college.
- ❑ Talk to your counselor about the WAVE Pact admission requirements. The WAVE Pact is our Guaranteed Admission Program with California State University, San Marcos.
- ❑ If you want to play a sport in college, talk to your counselor about the NCAA and NAIA requirements.
- ❑ If you are taking an AP Test, make sure you register for the test according to the registration deadline. See Mrs. Neumann (AP/IB Coordinator) for more information.

### JANUARY - JUNE

- ❑ Attend the RBV Course Selection Presentation, choose your courses for Junior year and discuss your selections with your parents/guardians, and teacher.
- ❑ Meet with your counselor in March to discuss your course selections and plan for your future.
- ❑ If you are interested in becoming a Full IB Diploma Candidate, see Mrs. Neumann (AP/IB Coordinator) to discuss your plan and attend the IB Sophomore retreat.
- ❑ If you are taking an SAT Subject Test, take the test soon after you finish the course, so the material is fresh in your mind.

### JULY - AUGUST

- ❑ Participate in community service and track your hours in your California Colleges account.
- ❑ Use your California Colleges account to continue to research college, career, & financial aid information. Counselors will be in your classrooms to present more information about California Colleges.
- ❑ Visit college campuses if you can.
- ❑ Have fun, rest and get some sleep. The school year is fast approaching.

### It's important to develop these skills during 10th grade:

#### Comprehension skills

Reading comprehension is a core component of college entrance exams like the ACT and SAT. Both have critical reading sections, which will test your ability to retain and understand written English while simultaneously examining your vocabulary. What's the best way to sharpen your comprehension skills? Read. Read as much as you can. Whether you enjoy books, blogs, newspapers or magazines, reading is the best way to expand your vocabulary and increase the speed and accuracy at which you absorb information – an ability that will benefit you at testing time, guaranteed.

#### Study skills

By 10th grade, you're not a stranger to class exams, pop quizzes, or standardized tests. However, the coursework is growing in difficulty and your teachers' testing styles are different from middle school and 9th grade. Gone are the days of handholding and checking-in on nightly homework. Instead, you're expected to keep-up with weekly reading and study on your own. It's up to you to take charge when you don't understand something – by meeting with your teacher during study hours and assembling peer study groups outside of the classroom. Your grades are important, and your study habits are the foundation of your success.

#### Time management skills

Until now, you've grown accustomed to adults and teachers telling you what to do and when to do it. But as a sophomore (and every year in the future), you are responsible for managing your own workload by keeping track of exam dates and assignment deadlines. With this newfound independence, it's easy to fall-victim to procrastination. Our advice to prevent falling behind? Make a daily to-do list and stick to it. Pretend that a test is earlier than it is to avoid night-before-cram-sessions. After all, college is all about balancing your time. The better you are at time management now, the better prepared you'll be in the future.