

The Counseling Connection

March/April 2008 Newsletter



Summer School Dates

Attention all students! Summer school will be held
June 16- July 18, 2008 Mondays– Fridays.

April 4th is the end of the third quarter. These grades are the halfway mark for the semester. If your grades are good, we congratulate you and urge you to keep on doing what you've been doing to be so successful. If your grades are in serious need of improvement, here are some friendly reminders:

- Talk to you teachers. Find out what you need to work on if you have anything you can make up.
- Even if you don't have specific homework assignments, take your books home and review the day's lesson.
- See your teacher after school for extra help.
- If you are absent, check with your teacher immediately upon your return to find out what work you missed and make it up promptly!
- Keep up with your homework!
- Above all, come to school every day! Poor attendance is a major factor affecting grades.

Remember—if you earn below a “C” in math or a foreign language course, you will not be allowed to advance to the next level. Check with your counselor to discuss your options. Summer school make-up is available for math, but not foreign language.

NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR: The National College Fair sponsored by NACAC will be held April 8, 2008 at the Ontario Convention Center. The fair will be held from 9:00am- 12:00pm and 6:00pm- 8:30 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet with college representative from various colleges across the country. Visit www.nacacnet.org for more information.

Career Technical Education (formerly ROP)

Kings students are able to take a variety of ROP courses available on and off campus. See Ms. Debbie Spencer in the Career Center on Mondays or Fridays for a complete list.

Seniors:



AVOID SENIORITIUS:

Here's a story familiar to UC admissions officers: A student knocks himself out all through high school to accumulate the good grades, awards, solid test scores and volunteer hours he needs to gain admission to a great college. And then, for whatever reason, the star student turns slacker. Motivation plummets; he fails to take planned coursework, his grades drop.

The syndrome is common enough to have a semi-joking name, "senioritus." But it's no joke if it leads to a drop in academic achievement. But it happens. Each year, UC campuses system wide rescinds hundreds of admission offers to applicants who have failed to meet their conditions of admission. Keep your focus and keep working hard! Your future depends on it.



COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES: Don't forget to report to the counseling office when you finalize your college choice. We will list all reported college acceptances in the Guidance Office. If you receive any scholarship or Cal Grant money, let Mrs. Burkes in the College and Career Center know what you have been given.



SCHOLARSHIPS- Look for scholarship opportunities in the College and Career Center.

Scholarship or Scam??? A scholarship or grant is free money- you should never pay for one. Watch out for companies that make you generous scholarship promises, charge you money to apply or receive a scholarship, try to get you to send them money by claiming you're a finalist or request your credit card number to hold a scholarship or grant for you. Also be wary of "free" seminars that turn into high-pressure sales pitches for financial aid information that is readily available for free.



RCC ASSESSMENT TEST- Seniors, if you plan to attend RCC next year, you must take the RCC Assessment test. The RCC Assessment will be given at MLK on April 21, April 29 and May 12. You must submit your application at least two weeks prior to taking the assessment test. Please see Mrs. Burkes in the Career Center to register for the test.

CSU PLACEMENT EXAMS: If you plan to attend a CSU-California State University in the fall, you will need to take the ELM and EPT Placement exams. The EPT- English Placement Exam and the ELM-Entry Level Math Exam determine your placement in math and English courses. You can prepare for these exams by visiting www.csuenglishsuccess.org and www.mathsuccess.org.

Juniors:

COLLEGE PREP- College bound juniors should be visiting college campuses, asking teachers for letters of recommendation, participating in community service activities and looking for summer enrichment programs.

SAT I, SAT II, ACT should be taken by the end of your junior year. Sign up on collegeboard.com or ACT.org. The SAT, ACT and other standardized tests play a big role in college admissions—and, in some cases, scholarship decisions. The UC system and selective independent colleges require the SAT 1 and the SAT II or the ACT with writing. The CSU system only requires the SAT 1 or ACT. Community colleges, however, do not require any of the standardized tests. Register on www.collegeboard.com for tests and the “SAT Test Question of the Day.”

Test Date	Tests	Registration Deadline
May 3, 2008	SAT Subject Test	April 1, 2008
June 7, 2008	SAT Subject Test	May 6, 2008



ACT TESTING

Test Date	Registration Deadline
April 12, 2008	March 7, 2008
June 14, 2008	May 9, 2008

Visit www.actstudent.org for registration and more information

Letters of Recommendation: The end of your junior year is the time to begin asking for letters of recommendation from your teachers. Complete the brag sheet that is available in the Guidance Office and select one or two teachers to write a positive letter on your behalf. Be sure to thank them for their work.

SUMMER 2008: The summer before your senior year can be a busy one! Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship or signing up for summer enrichment programs. You should also visit college campuses and develop a list of 5-10 colleges that interest you. Make sure you visit UC, CSU and private universities. Each offers a wide variety of programs and opportunities.

Sophomores:

SCHEDULE: Challenge yourself when selecting your junior classes. If you have been thinking about trying an honors or AP class...*DO IT*. Select your classes carefully and remember to consider your other responsibilities such as work and sports. You are making a year long commitment to each class you select!

COLLEGE SEARCH: Visit www.collegeboard.com and use the College Search to find out the required courses and tests of colleges that you might attend. www.bridges.com and www.csumentor.edu are additional sites to help you explore careers and majors.

READ, READ, READ!!

Freshman:

SCHEDULE: Challenge yourself when selecting your sophomore classes. If you have been thinking about trying an honors class...*DO IT* Have you joined a club, sport or some activity on campus? *GET INVOLVED!!!*

POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS:

Explore opportunities available after high school such as college, community college, military, trade schools and work experience.

READ, READ, READ!!