

# THE POST HIGH SCHOOL PLAN



# THE EASIEST PLAN.....



Get discovered in high school

**FOR THE REST OF US.....**

# POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

## COLLEGE

- Community College – Over 100 throughout the state
- California State University (CSU) – 23 campuses
- University of California (UC) – 10 campuses (9 for you)
- Private Universities and Colleges – Both in state and out of state

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- Armed forces – Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard
- Occupational Training – Cosmetology, Auto repair, plumber, electrician

# TODAY'S OBJECTIVES

- Understand the different college systems and their requirements
- Learn important information for the college application
- Learn how SMHS will help out in senior year
- Key deadlines
- Intro to financial aid

# WHERE ARE YOU IN THE DECISION PROCESS?



Wherever you are, you are good!

# WANT TO STAY IN CALIFORNIA?

## Three primary options:

- Public University (UC or CSU)
- Private University
- Community College



# PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

## UC System



## CSU System



# UC SYSTEM

- Top 9% of California HS students earn automatic admission
- Admission rates range from 16.1% at UCLA to 69.8% for UC Merced
- System wide there is roughly a 62% admission rate for California residents
- Among one of the most competitive state schools systems for admissions throughout the country

# UC SYSTEM

Step 1: Apply at : [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply)

Step 2: Filing Period: November 1 – 30

**Step 3: SAT & ACT NOT REQUIRED FOR THE CLASS OF 2021**

Students can still submit tests if they want, but not required  
Normally tests are required with essay

Step 4: \$70 fee per campus

Step 5: **4 out of 8 personal insight questions**

Step 6: Need a 3.0+ GPA in A-G courses

## Not Required

- Letters of Recommendation\*
- Transcripts

# MORE THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- *May start working on application as of **August 1***
- **Do not wait** until November 30<sup>th</sup> to submit!!
- *If you are unsure about the SSN question, please come see Ms. Booth or Mr. Hanson*
- *Fee waivers: up to 4*
- *Application Center Hotline: 800-207-1710*
  - *Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

# NOVEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 NO SCHOOL	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL
29 NO SCHOOL	30					

# CSU SYSTEM

- Top third of California high school students earn automatic admission to a CSU
- Most CSU schools have an admission rate over 50%
- Six schools within 90 mile drive of San Mateo HS, and four within 60 miles (CSU East Bay, Sonoma State, SFSU, San Jose State, CSU Monterey Bay, & Cal Maritime)
- SAT/ACT test scores not required
- Any student with a 2.5 a-g GPA or higher is eligible for any CSU program, 2.0 - 2.4 GPA will be considered based upon additional factors

# CSU SYSTEM

Step 1: Apply at : [www.calstate.edu/apply](http://www.calstate.edu/apply)

Step 2: Filing period: **October 1-November 30**

Step 3: SAT/ACT NOT required for the Class of 2021

Step 4: \$70 per application

Step 5: Need a 2.0 GPA in A-G courses

## Not Required

- Initial transcripts at time of application, midyear after winter break sometimes needed
- Essays
- Letters of Recommendation
- Extracurricular Activities
- \*EOP program will require additional letters\*

# SMUHSD IS CREDIT/NO CREDIT FOR SPRING 2020

- Credit or no credit makes NO impact on GPA
- Still need to get credit for a course to count towards graduation and college requirements
- Colleges will not use credit/no credit in admission GPA calculations
- OTHER school districts are already using this grading system
- Colleges & Universities are already aware of this and have modified their schools in order to support students
- MOST EQUITABLE WAY TO SUPPORT STUDENTS ACADEMICALLY DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED TIME.

# SAT & ACT

- **Several schools are already test optional. Some schools have already announced a move to test optional for the Class of 2021 while others consider a similar move**
- **Some schools may change the subject test recommendation. When schools require subject tests it is usually just for certain majors or programs at the college**
- **As colleges announce more information look for Ms. Booth and Mr. Hanson to share those details with the Class of 2021**
- **Even if only looking at test optional schools it can be useful to take an SAT or ACT as some scholarships may ask for it**

# 2020 SAT & ACT TEST DATES

## SAT/SAT Subject Test

- August 29<sup>th</sup> 2020
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020
- November 7<sup>th</sup> 2020
- December 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

<https://sat.collegeboard.org/home>

## ACT

- June 13<sup>th</sup> 2020
- July 18<sup>th</sup> 2020
- September 12<sup>th</sup> 2020
- October 24<sup>th</sup> 2020
- December 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

<http://www.actstudent.org>

- Photo upload procedure- Bring Picture ID day of test!
- Use legal name, name must match college app.
- Check the deadline requirements for each school you are applying to (*especially if applying ED or EA*)
- More test dates could be added, likely additional fall weekends
- If no school in fall then SAT will have at home online testing available

# Always Use Full Legal Name!

On all things College related:

- College Apps
- Financial Aid Apps
- SAT/ACT Exams

## Tips:

- No nicknames
- Use both your last names if you have two
- Any apostrophes, dashes, spaces, commas, must be included

# APPLICATION WORKSHOPS

At some point in the Fall we anticipate that there will be two separate application workshops:

**UC** *application* and  
**CSU** *application*

**Details will be announced in the Fall!**

# PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES



Over 150 more

# PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

- Smaller class sizes and stronger relationships between students and professors
- Tuition prices will typically exceed those of public universities, but you can negotiate
- Your application will be considered more holistically (less emphasis on numbers and more about what makes you who you are)
- Schools that are geared towards a specific demographic will typically be private schools (women's colleges, religious schools, etc.)



# PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES & SEVERAL OUT OF STATE

- You can apply to many of these schools through the Common App (*roughly 800 schools*)
- Filing period will depend on application cycle (*EA, ED, RD, etc*)
- Complete Common App essay and some colleges will require supplemental essays
- Application fees will vary from campus to campus
- Letters of Recommendation (*generally one counselor and two teacher*)
- List of extracurricular activities
- Supplemental application/audition(s) may be required depending upon major

The logo for The Common Application, featuring the words "THE COMMON APPLICATION" in a serif font, with "THE" in a smaller size and "COMMON" and "APPLICATION" in a larger size, all in a dark red color.

# COMMON APPLICATION & THE FERPA

Fill out the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (*FERPA*) on Common App

- Colleges recommend that you say “Yes”, you waive your rights to see recommendations
- You cannot change your response once you complete the FERPA
- You complete the FERPA after you add at least one college to your list

# COALITION APPLICATION



There are a handful of schools that accept the Coalition Application, though most of them also accept the Common App or have their own application. Very few schools require you to use the Coalition Application.

When possible, ***DON'T*** use the Coalition Application!

# CLASS SIZE AND RANK

Common application asks for class size and your rank

- The senior class of 2021 is roughly 416 students
- We do not rank our students (*there is an option to say “our school does not rank”*)



# ADMISSION OPTIONS

## Early Decision

Binding decision where you must attend the school if accepted

## Early Action

Early deadline, but not binding , though some schools will not permit you to apply Early Action anywhere else

## Regular Decision

Standard application deadline, due anywhere between mid-December and mid-February

## Rolling Admissions

No set application deadline as schools will continue accepting applications as long as they have space



# REQUESTING TRANSCRIPTS

- Fill out the Transcript Request form in the Career Center
- Do this twice, once in fall for your initial transcript and again after winter break for your mid-year transcript
- Transcripts are (*generally*) only required for:
  - Private
  - Some out-of-state schools
  - No UC's or CSU's (except for midyear on occasion)

[illegible]

You **MUST** list classes and include transcripts from all institutions where you took courses!

Including:

- Community college
- BYU courses/ outside institutions



# COUNSELOR LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

1. Complete the *Early Bird Senior Survey* in Naviance, available early May
2. Sign up and attend one of our *Common App Matching & Naviance Teacher Letter of Rec.* workshops in the Fall
3. At the end of the workshop, *Mr. Hanson* will sign off that you're good to meet with *Ms. Booth* and will provide you an envelope
4. Drop off the envelope with *Ms. Booth* and schedule a meeting
  - *Ms. Booth* will also accept meeting requests in May, but you must still complete step 2 after summer break

# TEACHER LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

- 2 Teacher recommendations
  - Complete a letter of recommendation integrity contract, available by start of May in Career Center and/or electronically
- Teachers of academic subjects preferred in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade
  - *Core subjects generally referred to as math, science, social sciences, and English*
- Write thank you notes!

# LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION DEADLINES FOR COUNSELORS & TEACHERS

- If your first application deadline is before November 28<sup>th</sup>, you must talk with your teachers and meet with Ms. Booth by **September 25<sup>th</sup>**.
- If your first application deadline is on or after November 28<sup>th</sup>, you must talk with your teachers and meet with Ms. Booth by **November 13<sup>th</sup>**.

# Optional 3rd Letter of Rec.

- Some colleges allow an optional 3<sup>rd</sup> Letter of Rec.
  - *Usually these letters come from a coach, a boss, the person in charge of a volunteer opportunity, an internship director, a religious leader, etc. These letters should NEVER come from a family member*
  - *If you have someone outside of SMHS writing your optional 3<sup>rd</sup> letter, enter their email into Common App so they can submit their letter- if information needs to be mailed, provide the address to your 3<sup>rd</sup> party*
- Write thank you notes!

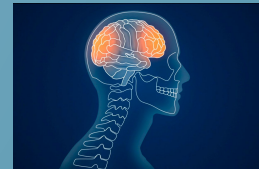
# Meet Persephone

- After fall semester of junior year had a weighted GPA of 3.61
- Took one AP in sophomore year and three junior year
- Played basketball every year of HS
- Also participates in Model UN



However, in February of junior year.....

Persephone suffered a concussion in a basketball game while coming down for a rebound.



## **All spring semester Persephone struggled while trying to properly heal from her concussion.**

- She had to drop one of her AP's and an elective class
- Struggled in the classes she did keep, most were C's or a B-
- Could not get approved for accommodations in time for her SAT, scored in the low 1100's after scoring in upper 1200's on PSAT's
- Struggled on her AP exams in the spring
- The road to recovery took awhile, and she was not fully back to her regular cognitive skills until late May
- Persephone would rebound in fall semester of senior year and be back to getting mostly A's and B's
- Did improve her SAT score to upper 1100's, but was still outside the median for her target school, a prestigious school near Washington D.C. that accepts less than 30% of applicants
- Her counselor discussed the issues in the counselor letter of rec., highlighting the type of student Persephone generally is
- She was accepted at her dream school near D.C. along with seven other top schools
- Colleges saw that the spring semester was not indicative of the type of student she is, that it was merely a blip on an otherwise good application

Right now, you are ***all*** Persephone. Every junior around America and the world is Persephone.

Colleges are used to analyzing transcripts and applications from students like Persephone every year. While they may not have experience doing this in the sheer number of Persephones they will have in the fall, they do know how to identify a strong student who may have had a blip on their application due to outside circumstances beyond their control.

We are ALL in this together!

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Most affordable option !
- If your high school transcript is not up to par for a 4- yr school, you can have a good two years at community college and 4-yr schools won't hold HS grades against you
- Allows you to go to school close to home and save money on room and board
- Provides you additional time to figure out what you want out of a future college and career
- Very flexible scheduling with day and evening classes
- Financial aid is available

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Entrance Requirements:

- 18 years of age or High School Graduate
- No SAT/ACT required
- Occupational/Certificate Programs

## Students Should Plan to Attend:

- Spring semester presentation and application workshop
- Sign up for Priority Enrollment Program (PEP)

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Occupational Programs:

- Be sure to check their deadlines
- Special programs usually have early applications
  - Cosmetology, EMT, fire science, auto repair etc.
    - Do this research- Each campus offers different programs!
    - Sign-up for community college events in the career center

# WANT TO LEAVE THE STATE?



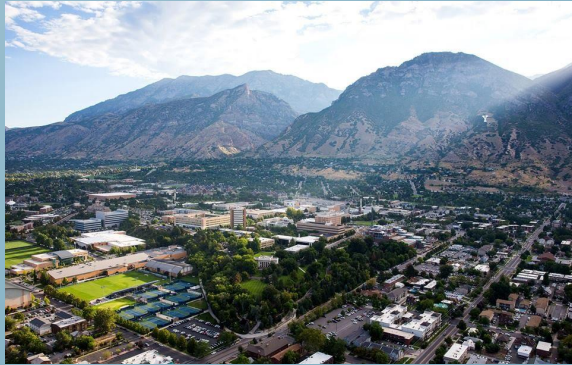
Big Cities



Rural farmland



Beaches



Mountains



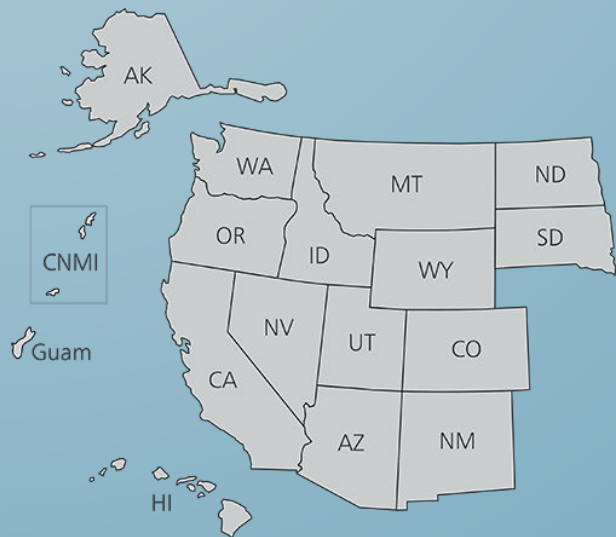
Winter

# BENEFITS TO OUT-OF-STATE

- Schools look to diversify their campus based on where people are from, so applying as an out of state student can give you an edge
- Campuses may not be impacted the way some of our in-state campuses are, so you could save money in the long run by being done in four years instead of five
- An opportunity to live in a different part of the country
- If going to another western state, you may not need to pay the out-of-state tuition rate

# WUE – WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE

- Provides an opportunity to attend certain colleges in fellow western states and territories at a fraction of the out-of-state costs
- Certain GPA and test score requirements may exist to be WUE eligible
- Full list of participating schools available in the Career Center



North Dakota

Washington

Arizona

South Dakota

Oregon

Utah

Montana

Nevada

Idaho

Wyoming

California

Guam

Colorado

Alaska

Northern  
Mariana Islands

New Mexico

Hawai'i



# HOW TO MAKE A COLLEGE LIST

*Online search options to find colleges that meet what you want:*

- Naviance College search questionnaires
- College Board BigFuture

*Ask people in your life about their college experience:*

- Older relatives
- Teachers (Naviance lists teacher colleges)
- Bosses at work

# FINANCIAL AID

## *FREE Application for Federal Student Aid*

- *Avoid scams-you will never pay to complete the FAFSA or the CA Dream Act*
- *Only go to [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) or [www.dream.csac.ca.gov](http://www.dream.csac.ca.gov)*

## *There are different types of aid you may be awarded, including:*

- *Grants*
- *Loans*
- *Work study*
- *And Scholarships*

# FINANCIAL AID BASICS

- FAFSA & CA Dream ACT open on October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Check the deadlines at the schools you are considering applying to as some may have deadlines as early as late October/early November
- Some schools require you to fill out an additional financial aid form called the CSS Profile which will have a cost
- Financial aid presentation will be scheduled for late September/early October
- Classroom presentations on financial aid with more information in October

# SOME COLLEGES CLAIM THAT THEY MEET 100% OF DEMONSTRATED FINANCIAL NEED

This isn't always as helpful as they make it sound



# WHO SHOULD APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?



# SCHOLARSHIPS

- Free money you don't have to repay
- Updated scholarship list will be e-mailed out every 1 – 2 weeks
- Some scholarships (*esp. in the spring*) are only open to students from SMHS or San Mateo County, thus giving you increased odds of winning
- Don't overlook applying for scholarships just because they seem to be for a small amount. A \$500 scholarship can cover textbooks for a semester, and winning multiple scholarships at this amount can add up
- Don't ever pay or provide your credit card information for a scholarship! If unsure, check in with the Career Center
- Fill out the *senior survey* to be eligible for additional scholarships that are only open to SMHS students

# COLLEGE VISITS AT SMHS

Great way to learn about colleges and also make an impression

1. Review & sign-up for college visits on *Naviance*
  - *If no one signs up the visit may be cancelled*
2. Pick up a college visit pass in the Career Center
3. Review college profile and come prepared to ask questions during the session
4. Roughly 55 schools visited us last fall, (i.e. U. of Michigan, University of Hawaii, USC, Princeton, Berkeley, Syracuse University, and many more!)

# COMMUNICATION

- Check email (*Canvas, college emails, and personal*) Daily!!!
- Check college portals regularly once applications have been submitted
- Clean up your social media accounts and use *professional* email
- Organize email by creating folders
- Use *Mr. Hanson & Ms. Booth* as your resources!

**FOLLOW THE CAREER CENTER ON  
INSTAGRAM FOR IMPORTANT UPDATES**



**@smhscareercenter**

# CLEAN UP SOCIAL MEDIA AND BE MINDFUL OF WHAT YOU POST



WHEN NOT SURE, DON'T POST IT!

# AND FINALLY....

Enjoy the year! You only get one senior year of high school, so make the most of it!

- Take pictures
- Make memories with your friends
- Say yes to life and hanging out with your friends
- Make a senior year bucket list
- If you go to prom, DANCE



# FINAL THOUGHTS

- Don't wait until the deadline! Try to submit any paperwork or applications at least three days in advance of the deadline.
- **REVIEW REVIEW REVIEW!** Review your applications and essays for any errors or mistakes. Meet with the Career Center for any private or out of state applications to make sure that everything is in the system.
- Notify colleges if you make any changes to your class schedule after you have already sent in the application.
- **TODAY AT 3PM - ABC NEWS KGO-TV will be airing a CONVERSATION WITH COLLEGE ADMISSIONS EXPERT: SEE BELOW**

<https://abc7news.com/education/watch-tuesday-college-admissions-experts-give-advice-amid-covid-19-crisis/6117491/>