



ROADS TO SUCCESS

ACADEMIC PLANNING PRESENTATION

November 18, 2025
Samohi Advisors & College and Career Counselors

Samohi's Structure/House System



4 Houses of about 600 students (S, A, M, O) and PBL with 100 students



Each House has 1 House Principal, 2 Advisors (A House also has one counselor who helps with ISP and OCLC), 1 House Assistant and PBL has 1 Assistant Principal/Counselor and 1 House Assistant



You stay in the same house all four years, which helps make the school feel smaller and feels like a home.



GRADES AND REQUIREMENTS

Grades

Graduation

Must pass classes with
Ds or better

College

Must pass classes with
Cs or better. Most
colleges want to see As
and Bs.

English Requirement

Graduation- 4 years

- English 9
- English 10
- English 11
- English 12

College- 4 years

- English 9 P
- English 10 P
- English Elective/AP
- English Elective/AP

Social Studies Requirement

Graduation-3 years

- World History
- US History (ACES)
- Economics (1 semester) and Government (1 semester) OR a year of AP Economics or a year of AP Government

College-2 years

- World History P/AP
- US History P/AP (ACES)
- OR a semester of US History and a semester of US Government

Math Requirement

Graduation-3 years

- In any math level

-Three years must be taken at Samohi

College -3 years

- 4 years are recommended
- At minimum a student should have Algebra, Geometry and Algebra II listed on their transcript

Samohi's Math Pathways

All pathways fulfill math requirements for graduation and 4 year colleges/universities

Grade	Pathway A	Pathway B	Pathway C	Pathway D
9th	Algebra P	Geometry P	Geometry P	Algebra II HP
10th	Geometry P	Algebra II P	Algebra II HP	Pre-Calculus/Calc AHP
11th	Algebra II P	Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry P	Pre-Calculus/Calc AHP	Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP
12th	Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry P Statistics AP Introduction to Data Science P	Calculus AB AP Statistics AP Introduction to Data Science P	Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP Statistics AP	Multivariable Calc (2 nd semester SMC Math 11) Statistics AP

Science Requirement

Graduation-2 years

- 1 year of a Physical Science (Physics)
- 1 year of a Life Science (Biology)

College-2 years

- 3 years recommended, 4 years if you will be a science major
 - Physics
 - Chemistry
 - Biology

Science Course Prerequisites

Course	Science Prerequisites	Recommended Math Prerequisite/Co-requisite
Physics in Universe P	None	Concurrent enrollment in Algebra P
Chemistry in Earth P/HP	None	Geometry or higher. HP: have strong math skills
Biology in Living Earth P	None	None
Biology AP	Biology in Living P and/or Chemistry in Earth P/HP	None
Chemistry AP	Chemistry in Earth P/HP	Completion of Algebra II P/HP
Marine Biology P	Biology in Living Earth P	None
Physiology P	Biology in Living Earth P	None
Environmental Science AP	Biology in Living Earth P, Chemistry in Earth P/HP	None

Science Courses- Physics Options

Course	Science Prerequisites	Recommended Math Prerequisite/Co-requisite
Physics in the Universe P	None	Concurrent enrollment in Algebra I
Physics AP	None	Concurrent enrollment in Precalculus (with a strong Algebra II foundation)
AP Physics C: Mechanics	None	Calculus AB, Calculus BC, or Multivariable Calculus
AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism	AP Physics C: Mechanics	Calculus AB, Calculus BC, or Multivariable Calculus

Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Requirement

Graduation- 1 year

- 1 year of VAPA (arts)
OR 1 year of Foreign
Language is required

College- 1 year

1 year of VAPA (arts)

Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Electives

- Acting 1 (no audition) and 2 (with audition)
- AP Art Studio Art- Application required
- Band
- Ceramics 1, 2 and 3
- Choir
- Drawing 1 and 2
- Film and Video Production 1 and 2
- Graphic Design (Beginning and Advanced has 2nd semester SMC Design 13)
- Orchestra
- Painting 1 and 2
- Photo (Beginning and Advanced)
- Piano
- Yearbook 2

***Subject to change without notice**

Foreign Language Requirement

Graduation-1 year

- 1 year of VAPA (arts)
OR 1 year of foreign language is required

College-2 years

- 3-4 years recommended
- Must be in the same language

Foreign Language Options

- French
- Japanese
- Latin
- Spanish

*Subject to change without notice

Additional Electives

- Marching Band
- Color Guard
- Weight Training, Yoga or General PE
- Journalism 1 and 2-Application required
- Academic Decathlon-by teacher approval
- Yearbook 1 and 2-Application required
- ASB-Application required
- AVID-Application required
- Psychology P (11th and 12th only) and AP (12th grade only)
- Ethnic Studies
- AP Human Geography
- ITC (Infant Toddler Center)-Daycare Support
- Academic Tutor

***Subject to change without notice**

Additional Electives

SMC Dual Enrollment Options

Business (Grades 11th and 12th):

Business 1-Intro to Business (Semester 1)

Business 63-Principals of Entrepreneurship (Semester 2)

Sociology (Grades 11th and 12th):

Sociology 1-Introduction to Sociology (Semester 1)

Sociology 2-Social Problems (Semester 2)

Media Communication (Grades 10th-12th):

Communication Studies 35 (Semester 1)

Media 1 (Semester 2)

Music (Grades 9th-12th):

Music 44-Beginning Mariachi (No experience needed)

Music 78-Jazz Band (Audition Needed)

***Subject to change without notice**

CTE

- Health and Wellness Academy (3 consecutive periods-English, Human Bio and Sport Medicine)
- Law and Public Policy Academy (11th and 12th only) (3 consecutive periods-English, Government and Economics and Law and Public Policy)
- Auto Tech 1, 2, and 3
- Photo
- Graphic Design

Project Lead the Way-10th -12th Grade

- Digital Electronics HP and Aerospace
- PLTW AP Comp Sci (Java) and Data Structures and Algorithms
- Senior Level Course-PLTW Academy Capstone: Engineering Design and Development (plus English and Physics)-only for students who have taken two of the above class

Sample Samohi Course Selections

Grade	9th Grade:	10th Grade:	11th Grade:	12th Grade:
English	English 9 P	English 10 P	English Elective P/AP	English Elective P/AP
Math	Algebra P Geometry P Alg. II P/HP	Geometry P Algebra II P/HP Pre-Calculus/ Trigonometry P Pre-Calculus/Calc A HP	Algebra II P/HP Pre-Calculus/ Trigonometry P Pre-Calculus/ Calc A HP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC AP	Intro to Data Science Pre-Calc/ Trigonometry P Statistics AP Calc AB AP Calc BC AP Multi Variable Calculus
History	Freshman Seminar P	World History P/AP	US History Aces P/AP	Economics P/Government P Economics AP (Yearlong) Government AP (Yearlong)
Science	Physics in the Universe P	Chem in Earth P/HP Biology P/AP	Chem in Earth P/HP Physics AP Marine Biology P Biology P/AP Chemistry AP Physiology P Environmental Science AP	Chem Earth P/HP Physics AP Marine Biology P Biology P/AP Chemistry AP Physiology P Environmental Science AP
PE	Physical Education/Sport	Physical Education/Sport		
Elective	Elective (Foreign Language or Visual/Performing Art)	Elective (Foreign Language or Visual/Performing Art)	Elective Elective	Elective Elective

P= College Preparatory (UC/CSU approved) **HP**= Honors Placement (UC/CSU approved) **AP**= Advanced Placement (UC/CSU approved)

Where curiosity meets mastery...

PBL Pathway

Grade	9	10	11	12
Core Integrated Courses (For students in enrolled in PBL)	- English 9 PBL (ACES) - Freshman Seminar PBL (ACES) - Physics in the Universe PBL - Algebra 1 PBL, Geometry PBL, or Algebra 2 PBL	- English 10 PBL - World History PBL - Biology PBL - Geometry PBL, Algebra 2 PBL, or Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry PBL	- English 11 – American Literature PBL - United States History PBL (ACES) - Chemistry in Earth PBL - Algebra 2 PBL, Pre-Calculus/ Trigonometry PBL, or Calculus A/B (SMC Enrollment)	- World Literature PBL (ACES) - American Government PBL (semester) - Economics PBL (semester) - Statistics PBL or Calculus A/B (SMC Enrollment)
Project Electives	<i>Service Learning</i>	Learning Through Interest/ Internship (LTI)	Learning Through Interest/ Internship (LTI)	Senior Thesis Project (STP)

All Samohi PBL Pathway classes are UC a-g approved college preparatory classes.

PBL Electives

PBL (Only for those enrolled in PBL):

- Learning Through Interest (Only for PBL students in 10th and 11th grade)
- Senior Thesis Project: (Only for PBL students in 12th grade)

Other Requirements

Graduation

- 1 year of Freshman Seminar or 1 semester of Health (transfer students)
- 2 years of Physical Education/Sport
- 1 year of ACES
- 60 additional elective credits
- 220 credits
- Under 60 unexcused period class absences

College

- 1 additional year of a core class
- Involvement in activities in and outside of school (Highly Recommended)
 - Clubs
 - Community Service
 - Sports
 - Work
 - Specific Elective Classes (ASB, Yearbook, etc.)
 - Hobbies
- Other requirements specific to the college

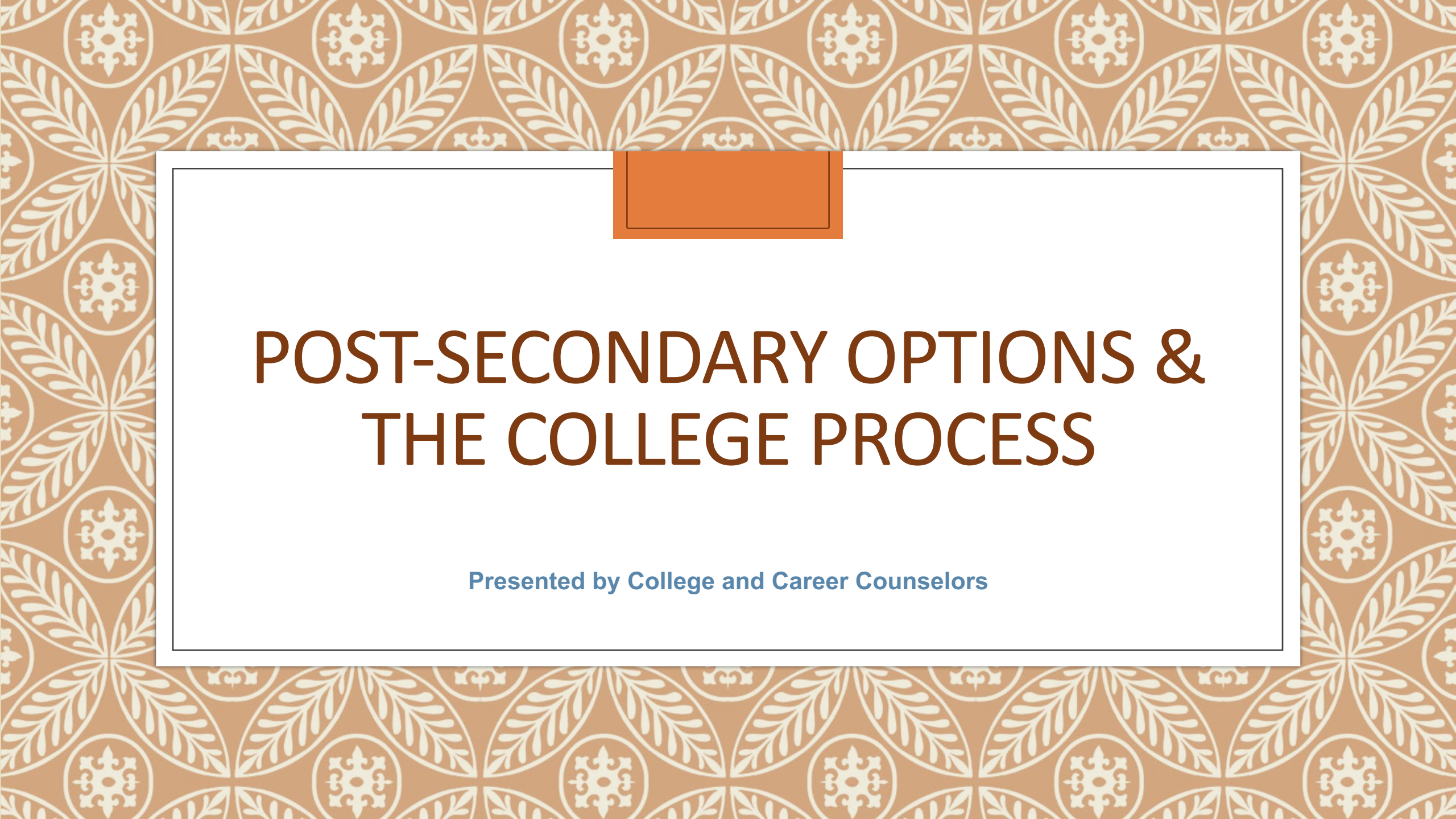
Succeeding at Samohi



How to be Successful in an AP Course

- Understand the expectations
- Be prepared to put in the effort
- Complete the work every day
- Ask for help when you need it
- Study for all tests
- Prepare for the AP Exam
- Consider using a test prep book to support class content
- Choose wisely and play to your strengths





POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS & THE COLLEGE PROCESS

Presented by College and Career Counselors

Samohi Graduate Paths

taking
a
gap year



OTHER
PROJECTS



College Admissions Process

- Academic preparation & performance
 - Rigor and grades (through Senior year)
- Engagement & involvement (outside of the classroom)
- Letter(s) of recommendation
- Artistic supplement
- Testing - **IT DEPENDS; MANY CHANGES:** check college's admission website for up to date details
- Interview

9th & 10th To Keep On Radar

Focus on:

- Your best academic performance (possibly Honors, AP, CC courses)
- Be involved in area(s) of interest (sports, arts, volunteer service, clubs, work, etc.)
- Build relationships with teachers and House Advisor
- Be proactive and productive during summer

Juniors things to keep in mind

Start and/or continue:

- Doing well within the classroom
- Being involved: Pursue hobbies, interests, future endeavors
- Connecting and building a rapport with your teachers and House Advisor

SchooLinks:



- Log in – Clever
- On-boarding steps
- Brag Sheet-Start the end of your junior year
- Research & start building college list based on FIT

Juniors things to keep in mind

Research summer opportunities that excite you

Visual & Performing Artists

- Talent-based admissions: pre-screening, portfolio, audition

If college costs and finances are a factor in decision, now is a good time to begin researching options that meet family's needs

- Net Price Calculator
- Early Decision (ED)? Early Action (EA)?
- In-state, Out-of-state, Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE)

Virtual tours, campus visits, Rep Visits

- Take lots of notes

Create a Balanced College List

Student-Athletes

Create a college list

- 5 – 10: all types (JC, Division I, II, III)

Contact coaches

- Go to clinics/showcases, pursue in-person exposure (if available)

Create an Athletic Resume

- List team(s) you have played for
- Contact info
- Notable achievements

Register with NCAA Eligibility Center

Are We Ready? You Got This!

What are **YOUR** priorities? Likes? Dislikes? Interests? Must Haves? Maybes?

No, Thanks!

Research = YOUR Priorities = College List

Open your SchoolLinks account on CLEVER-Samohi front page



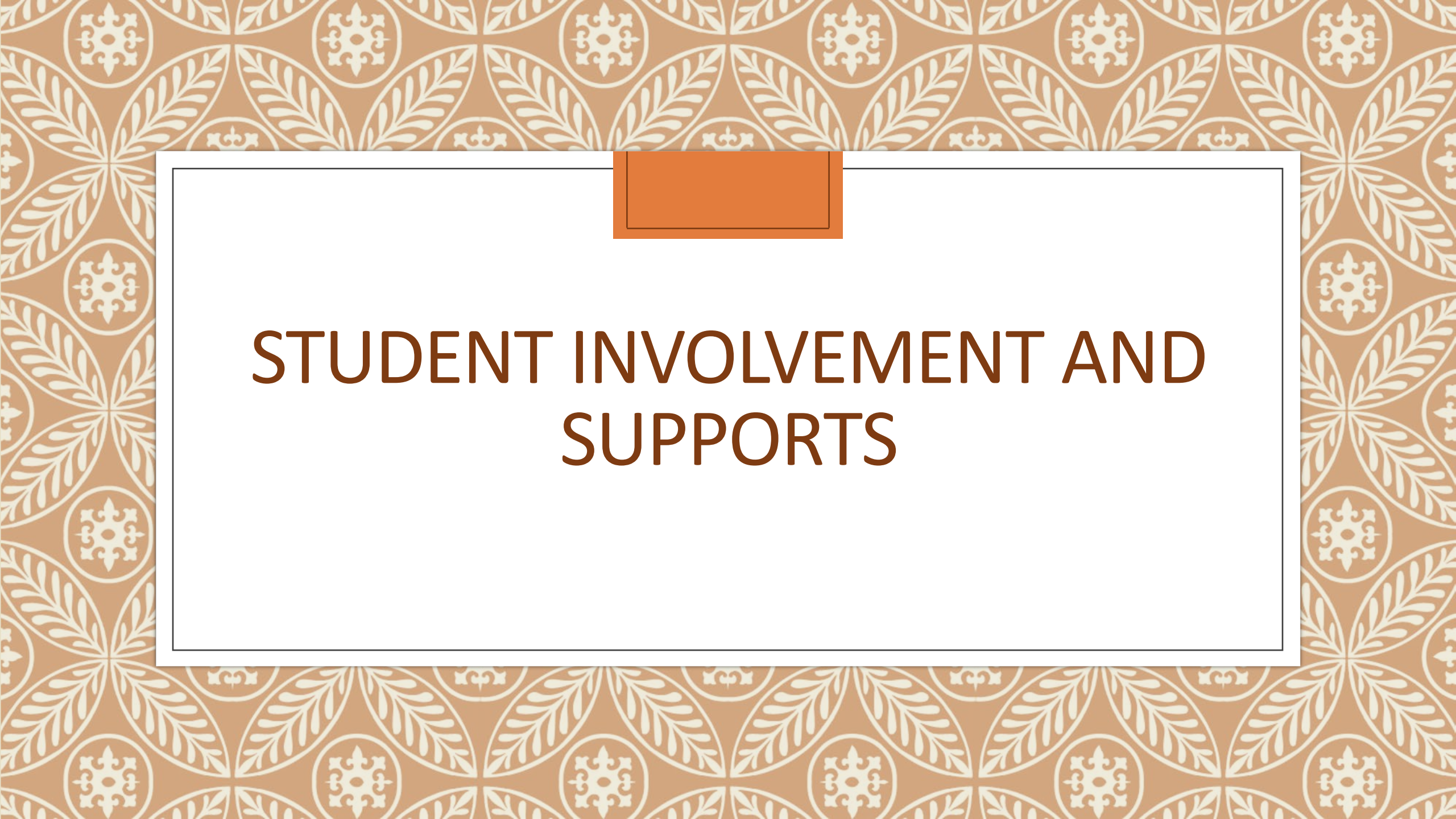
A screenshot of the SchoolLinks student dashboard. The top navigation bar is yellow with a black 'Exit Student Demo' button and a user profile for 'Stephen Stevens'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a 'Welcome to SchoolLinks' message, an onboarding guide titled 'Let's get onboarding!' with instructions on the 'Find Your Path' assessment, and a list of opportunities including volunteer matches and scholarships like the 'PAE Diversity in Engineering Scholarship' and 'Clyde Johnson Music Scholarship'. The right column shows a 'To Do List' with a message 'You do not have any To Dos yet' and four interactive cards: 'Discover Colleges', 'Explore Careers', 'Build Your Resume', and 'Find Your Path'. A vertical yellow sidebar on the left contains icons for Home, Student, Explore, Plan, Engage, Career, and College.

Testing Timeline

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Fall	PSAT 8/9	PSAT	PSAT/NMSQT (may qualify for National Merit)	SAT ACT
Spring		AP Exams*	AP Exams* SAT ACT	AP Exams*

***AP- Refers to advanced placement courses**





STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORTS

Get Involved

Impact, **quality participation** and **commitment** in one or more activities is the key:

- Service to the community – volunteering, internships
- Involvement in a club/organization
- Participation in an athletic team
- Employment (Permits available through College Career Center)
- Hobbies

Volunteer Opportunities Website: volunteermatch.com



Summer Options

Scholastic Opportunities

- SAMOHI Get Ahead / Credit Recovery
- Outside Public and Private School
- Community Colleges
- University Summer Programs
- Online Course Options

***NOTE: All must be approved by Advisor IN ADVANCE**



Extracurricular Opportunities

- Internships
- Community Service (**volunteer match**)
- Jobs
- Study Abroad

Resources

Aeries

- Check student grades/missing assignments
- <https://santamonicamalibu.aeries.net/>-Located under parent tab
- Google Classroom

Career/Interest Exploration Websites

- SchoolLinks-Located in CLEVER



- www.cacareerzone.org
- www.roadtripnation.com

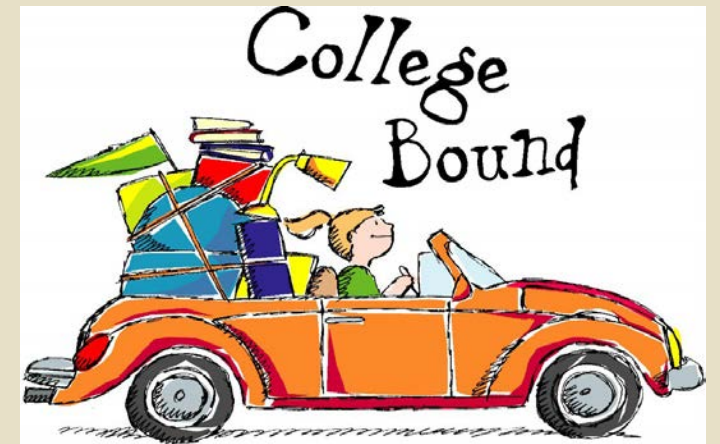
College Entrance Exams

- www.collegeboard.org/
- <https://www.act.org/>

Funding College Education (Understanding the process)

Information available in Spanish

- www.collegedata.com



Mental Health Resources

Wellness Services Center

General Mental Health Counseling

- Onsite Counseling (limited): Individual and Group Counseling
- Private Insurance MAY cover counseling off campus
- Margaret's Place (Drop in counseling) in E117 (Lunch and FLEX)
- Drop In Counseling AD513 (All Day)

Additional Services:

- Medical Clinic/Nurse's Office
- Parent Presentations
- Flex-Time Wellness Workshops
- Virtual Calming Room

*For more information, please visit the SAMOHI's Wellness Services Center under student tab: <https://sites.google.com/view/wellness-services-center/home>



Flex Time

(Wednesdays and Thursdays)

What is the goal of Flex-Time?

Samohi Flex-Time provides targeted educational opportunities during the school day for intervention and enrichment to best meet student individual needs. It is our goal that Flex-Time will help all students to be more successful. Students will engage in their own learning by building metacognitive and advocacy skills to promote emotional health, explore passions and grow in a focused, academic, and productive environment.

Three main areas of offerings:

- Academic Support
- Enrichment Opportunities
- Social Emotional Support

TUTORING SERVICES 2025-2026

Samohi Tutoring Matrix			
Program	Description	Location	Time
On Campus			
	Teacher Office Hours	Approaching your teacher should always be the first step when seeking extra help. All Samohi teachers offer individualized tutoring for their current students. You can sign up to see them during Flex-Time, or ask them what other times they are available.	Varies Check with your teacher for other times
	Tutoring at Samohi Library	Peer tutors are available <u>every day</u> at lunch and after school. IG: @samohipeertutoring Teachers are available for questions in the Library after school on these days: --Mon: Spanish --Tues: Research --Wed: English --Thu: Chemistry & Math	Library, Language 210 Mon-Fri at lunch Mon-Thu after school until 5:00pm
	AP Writing Center	The Writing Center is staffed by 2 retired AP English teachers and focuses on 11th/12th graders who need help in English or with college applications	Discovery-205A Wed & Thu Flex-Time (sign up on Enriching Students)
Off-Campus			
	Virginia Park Teen Center	A quiet place for working on assignments & receiving help. There is a library of school textbooks available in the homework room, computer lab & homework help. There is no fee but youth must enroll to participate.	2200 Virginia Ave. (Pico & 23rd) Mon-Fri, 2:45pm – 7:00p
	Santa Monica College Tutoring Centers	For students taking courses at SMC, Tutoring Centers are offered for free for most courses. There are Tutoring Centers in 8 locations throughout campus and also available online. Go to the Tutoring Center page to make an appointment.	Various locations on campus & online Various times
	Boys & Girls Club College Bound	Individual & group tutoring, individual & family counseling, dinner, and college counseling. Requires \$20/year Membership	1220 Lincoln Blvd (Lincoln & Wilshire) Mon-Thu, 4:15pm - 7:00pm
	Police Activities League	Homework assistance. The site includes computer access. For members only.	1401 Olympic Blvd. (Olympic & 14th) Mon-Fri, 2:30pm-7:30pm
	Pico Youth & Family Center	Academic tutoring for all subjects is available, starting Nov 2025	1460 4th Street, Suite 302 (4th & Broadway, above Burton Store) Varies, call ahead for times at (310) 396-7101
Online			
	Santa Monica Library Brainfuse HelpNow	Online live tutoring, homework help, standardized test prep, writing feedback, and job/resume/interview coaching for Gr3-College, in math, science, English, & social studies. Spanish- and Chinese-speaking tutors are available. Access using your LA County Library card and PIN number (free).	SMPL Brainfuse Sun-Sat, 1:00pm – 10:00pm
	LA Public Library Tutor.com	Live, one-to-one tutoring every day, in English or Spanish. K-12 and adult learners in all subjects, including AP-level classes, test prep from The Princeton Review, career tutoring, and parent coaching. Access with a library card (free). Professionally trained tutors communicate in a virtual classroom with chat and two-way white boards.	LAPL Tutor.com Sun-Sat, 11:00am – 11:00pm

Academic Planning Next Steps:

Information on the following will be emailed out:

9th grade:

- Soon to be Sophomore Night Event (In Person): **February 3rd, 5:30pm**
- Spring Semester: Individual meetings with students only to finalize their schedule

10th grade:

- Spring Semester: Individual meetings with students only

11th grade:

- Spring Semester: Individual Meetings with students only
- Spring Semester: College and Career Counselors will meet with students and families

Important Dates to Come:

January- March: Individual Planning Meetings with House Advisors-More information to come soon through email

PBL Program: Nicole Nicodemus will be meeting with families for academic planning meetings from January-March

Coffee with the Principal (10am-11am) in D100:

- November 21st
- January 23rd
- February 20th
- March 20th
- April 24th

January 29th at 6pm-SaMo Experience/Open House: To learn all about the different class opportunities for students next year

February 3rd, 5:30pm: Soon-To-Be Sophomore Evening Event (For current 9th graders)

Spring Semester: College and Career Counselors will meet with Juniors

Samohi Advisors, College & Career Counselors and PBL

S House

9th and 11th Grade: Rachel Bereny: rbereny@smmusd.org

10th and 12th Grade: Shirley Saykali: ssaykali@smmusd.org

A House

9th and 11th Grade: Yumi Valencia: yvalencia@smmusd.org

10th and 12th Grade: Jessica Garrido: jgarrido@smmusd.org

M House

9th and 11th Grade: Maribel Pulido: mpulido@smmusd.org

10th and 12th Grade: Lauren Takeshita: ltakeshita@smmusd.org

O House

9th and 11th Grade: Mele LeVeaux: mleveaux@smmusd.org

10th and 12th Grade: Maricela Gonzalez: mgonzalez@smmusd.org

ISP and OCLC

Bailey Fronda: bfronda@smmusd.org

PBL

9th- 12th Grade: Nicole Nicodemus: nnicodemus@smmusd.org

College & Career Counselors

Last Names A-G: Ernesto Flores: e.flores@smmusd.org

Last Names H-N: Julie Honda: jhonda@smmusd.org

Last Names O-Z: Rosa Mejia: rmejia@smmusd.org

Office Hours
for students
Drop in or by
appointment



THANK YOU