

## 12<sup>th</sup>-Grade Counseling Calendar

As seniors, you face a challenging year. Nearly all graduates from SJND enter college. This 12<sup>th</sup>-grade calendar is intended to alert you to activities which will assist you in this important process. Keep it handy for easy reference throughout the year.

### September:

**RIGHT AWAY:** Set up an email account JUST FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS. Check daily.

- Sign up to see your counselor for college advising.
- Check your graduation status. Be sure that you are satisfying all of the course and credit requirements.  
**Remember:** Senior grades **do** count for college acceptance.
- Attend Bishop O'Dowd College Night on Sept.9. More than 80 college representatives will be present.
- Make a list of the college characteristics that are important to you. This will help you select a school that is best for you. Consider college expenses involving tuition, room, board, books, and travel.
- Check the college catalogs in the Counseling Center for information about specific colleges. The best resources are: the College Handbook, the Index of Majors, The College Cost Book, and the internet.  
**Computers are available upstairs in the Counseling Center in San Jose Hall for student use.**
- Register to take a college admissions test **NOW**. This includes: SAT Reasoning [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and/or ACT [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org), and for UC and private school bound students, the SAT Subject Tests. Registration materials are available online or in the counseling center.
- Sign up to meet with college representatives who will visit our campus. They offer important information.
- Send for applications from private colleges using the internet, email, regular mail, or telephone.
- Work on college entrance essay—personal statement, and “resume” of awards and activities.
- Plan at least one campus visit for your days off on Sept 1, Sept 19, Oct. 13, and Oct. 31

### October

- Register for SAT/ACT. Most colleges will accept scores from tests taken through December '08 for Fall '09 applications.
- Attend SJND College Applications and Admissions Night on Oct.9 from 7-8:45 p.m. Focus will be on admissions and eligibility. Parents' attendance is strongly encouraged.
- Download or begin filling out CSU/UC applications online. Paper applications may be available for CSU's. UC application website is [www.ucop.edu/admissions](http://www.ucop.edu/admissions) and the CSU website is [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu). Contact private universities directly for application information.
- Begin exploring scholarship possibilities. Check the counseling department Senior Update and the internet for current financial aid and scholarship information. Private universities may require the CSS Profile to be filed for financial aid or scholarships.
- Continue to attend on-campus college representative presentations.
- Your college essay should be in the final form for submission to colleges.
- Arrange to visit campuses in which you are interested and/or attend an open house.
- If your application requires **letters of recommendation** from teachers, counselors, or administrators, request these early and complete the Letter of Recommendation Guidelines form which is available in the counseling office. **Give the required information to your letter writers at least 2 weeks before any deadline.**
- Check to see if your schools have an Early Action or Early Admission processes with early deadlines.

### November

- November is **College Applications Month**. All UC and Cal State Universities and many private universities will require applications during this month. UC and CSU deadlines are Nov. 30.
- Citywide College Night at the College of Alameda is Oct.16. Parents are encouraged to attend as well. More than 70 college representatives are in attendance.
- Check on college housing options and find application deadlines.
- Arrange for the main office to send transcripts to the colleges which require them.(Not UC's)
- Be sure to order SAT and ACT score reports for ALL colleges you apply to.

# 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Counseling Calendar (cont.)

## November (cont.)

- You and your parents should begin preparing information which is required to complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. The form will be available late November or early December.

## December

- DECEMBER IS THE **FINAL MONTH** TO TAKE THE SAT OR ACT.
- Sign up for your pin at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). You need this in order to file a FAFSA in January.
- Check deadlines for your private college application deadlines, and whether you need to file a CSS Profile for financial aid at the institution.
- Review the Senior Update for current financial aid and scholarship possibilities.
- Set up college visits for winter break

## January

- Be sure to attend the SJND Financial Aid Workshop on Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. Parents and students should attend. Expert assistance with Financial Aid applications.
- Begin filing the FAFSA on Jan. 2. Paper applications are available in the Counseling Center. You are encouraged to file online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- Watch the senior update for instructions regarding Cal Grant GPA filing.
- Request the main office send your seventh-semester transcript to colleges which require them.
- Continue to check for information regarding financial aid and scholarships.
- Check on housing application deadlines, if you haven't already done so.

## February

- Follow up on all financial aid and scholarship possibilities and make sure all necessary forms have been filed. See the Senior Update for items you did not apply for in the fall.
- Relax and concentrate on your grades. They still "count."
- See your counselor if you need help with any forms.
- The deadline for CAL Grant GPA verifications is March 1

## March

- Check community colleges for registration and testing requirements.
- Apply for housing if you haven't already done so.
- Register for AP exams which will be given in May
- Enjoy the acceptance letters as they pour in.
- Be sensitive to friends and classmates who may not have been accepted to the college of their choice. Be kind to yourself if you are among them.
- See your counselor if you want help with your options.
- Check your **STUDENT AID RESPONSE** from FAFSA and ask your counselor if you need help interpreting it.
- Sign up for college testing (ie: English and Math Placement) esp. for all CSU's
- Sign up for college orientation sessions-they tend to fill up fast.

## April

- Inform your counselor of your college choice. Seek their help in making decisions.
- Carefully consider the **STUDENT AID RESPONSE** from colleges and, if you need help, ask your counselor.

## May

- Statement of intent to register is due no later than May 1
- Finalize your housing.
- Study for your final exams. College acceptances are conditional based on your final transcript.
- Arrange for the main office to send a final transcript to the college you have chosen.